THE TIMES

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Catherine makes her mark on Zorro
FILMS page 37



Last-minute Christmas escapes
page 42



The ex-man behind Lily Savage
page 2

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

TIMES CRITICS CHOOSE BEST BOOKS FOR PRESENTS pages 40-41 Plus 20 pages of APPOINTMENTS

Pinochet in the dock tomorrow

Chile recalls envoy as Amnesty hails 'new era'

BY JOANNA BALE

GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET will stand in the dock of Britain's most secure court tomorrow to be called to account for the first time for atrocities carried out during his reign in Chile.

His appearance at Belmarsh magistrates' court in southeast London follows Jack Straw's decision yesterday to allow extradition proceedings against the former dictator to go ahead.

The Home Secretary's announcement was greeted with delight by human rights campaigners, but with anger and condemnation by the former dictator's supporters and by the Chilean Government, which promptly recalled its Ambassador "for talks".

The Home Secretary signed an "authority to proceed" which sets the ball rolling in what is expected to be a long judicial process. The first stage will begin tomorrow when the general appears at the court linked to Belmarsh top-security jail — a complex designed for the most dangerous criminals and terrorists.

Taking the unusual step of disclosing his reasons for allowing Spain's extradition application to go ahead, Mr Straw said that he had considered a "large number" of points raised by the general's lawyers and the Chilean government, but that none gave sufficient grounds to reject the extradition process. On the question of the General's health — he is recovering from surgery and is said to be frail and depressed — the Home Secretary concluded that "it does not appear that the Senator is unfit to stand trial".

And addressing arguments that Chile's stability and democracy would be threatened, and that the proceedings would be detrimental to Britain's national interest, he said: "The material and representations do not amount to sufficient grounds not to issue an authority to proceed."

Some observers said that the Chilean Government could be forgiven for thinking that Mr Straw was inviting it to make an extradition request for the General to stand trial in Chile. Explaining why he rejected pleas from Chile to return him, Mr Straw said: "There is no extradition request from the Chilean government, which the Secretary of State would consider."



Pinochet: frail and depressed



Straw: revealed reasons

However, he explained that he did not consider the possibility of a trial in Chile "to be a factor which outweighs the UK's obligations under the ECE (European Convention on Extradition) to extradite Senator Pinochet to Spain".

Chile responded by recalling Mario Artaza, its Ambassador to London, for immediate consultation, while the Vice-President, Raol Troncoso, issued a statement "rejecting with all energy" the decision. The Ambassador expected to fly out within hours and did not know when he would return.

In an address to the nation, Señor Troncoso appealed for calm in his country, adding: "This decision violates the jurisdiction of sovereignty of Chile. Jack Straw's decision is against our legislation protecting the principles of democracy and diplomatic immunity. The Government will use, as it has been doing, all the means possible to reverse this situation. We share the concern and shock of the citizens of Chile, but these should not take the form of public agitation."

The decision was also denounced by William Hague, who described it as cowardly and said: "Instead of doing the right thing, he has given in to activists within the Labour Party and to his own prejudices from the past. It is a great mistake."

Baroness Thatcher also described the decision as a grave mistake, adding: "He had ample power to put an end to this shameful and damaging episode. He has chosen instead to prolong it. Neither he nor the Government can hide behind legal posturing. This was a political decision and it represents a failure of political leadership."

But Richard Bunting of Amnesty International said: "The decision signals the birth of a new era for human rights, on the very eve of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It will mean that those contemplating future crimes against humanity may think again."

Amnesty, supported by other human rights organisations and victims of the Pinochet regime, had just failed in a legal attempt to stop General Pinochet leaving the country had the Home Secretary decided to halt extradition proceedings.

Amnesty had wanted permission to seek a High Court declaration that it would be unlawful for the Home Secretary to cancel the extradition warrant before General Pinochet's opponents had had a chance to challenge the decision to set him free in the courts. But Lord Justice Brown said it would not be "right or just", and in the event, the application was unnecessary.

The legal process, page 2
Cardinal Hume, page 22

ANTONIO GUEVARA / REUTERS



Supporters of the campaign Families of the Detained and Disappeared celebrate the extradition ruling in the Chilean capital Santiago yesterday

Hague accuses Straw of cowardice

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE and Baroness Thatcher accused Jack Straw of cowardice and legal posturing in allowing extradition proceedings against General Augusto Pinochet to go ahead.

Both believed that it was a grave mistake in prolong proceedings that could damage relations with Chile and set an "awkward precedent".

Mr Straw had given in to Labour activists and his own prejudices from the past, Mr Hague said. "It is time to say that General Pinochet should go home and the Chileans should be able to sort out their own problems."

When it was put to Mr Hague that Mr Straw had little choice in the matter given the Law Lords' decision, the Tory leader replied: "He had every choice. The rulings of the Law Lords made very clear that the Home Secretary could take into account other political factors. And there are very important political factors. He should have weighed those, he should given them priority in this particular case. He missed a great opportunity."

Mr Straw was, however, praised by Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs and by human rights organisations. Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said: "The right decision has been made. I think the message is clear to all dictators and potential dictators that you can assume the rule of law will now be applied."

And Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "The Home Secretary has taken the right decision to allow the law to take its course. This is a case in which justice has to be seen to be done. The legal process must be allowed to continue unhindered."

Ann Clwyd, chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said: "Britain has proved its commitment to international law. The general must answer legally for his crimes. The families of the disappeared and his victims may finally receive justice. This is a strong signal to all those accused of crimes against humanity. They will face international legal scrutiny for their deeds."

Peter Riddell, page 2

Iraq blocks UN inspectors

Iraq refused United Nations weapons inspectors access to a suspect site in Baghdad, threatening to provoke a new Gulf crisis.....Page 17

TV & RADIO	50, 51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26, 52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
BASIL HUME	22
ARTS	36-39
CHESS & BRIDGE	45
COURT & SOCIAL	24
LAW REPORT	35
TRAVEL	42
BOOKS	40-41

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Dean justified in sacking organist

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey were justified in sacking organist Dr Martin Neary and his wife, Penny, the concert secretary, the retired lawlord Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle ruled yesterday.

He decided that Dr Wesley Carr was right to dismiss the couple for secretly setting up a private company and taking about £11,000 for arranging concerts and promotions involving the choir.

The decision ends an acrimonious eight-month saga which divided the Abbey's choir, congregation and clergy and dragged the Queen into an unseemly dispute.

The Nearys were left stunned last night having believed they had an unbeatable case against the Dean and Chapter when they appealed to the Queen against their dismissal in March this year.

They are now left with no jobs and legal bills of more than £200,000, which will be only partly offset by the £95,000 raised by supporters to help them to fight their case.

Dr Carr, the Dean, said Lord Jauncey had vindicated the decision to dismiss the Nearys on the grounds that there had been a betrayal of trust.

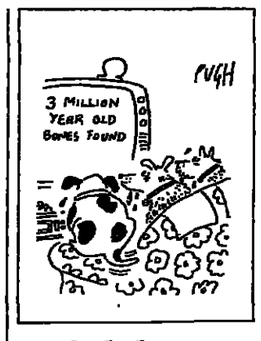
Dr Neary said the long-awaited judgement was "a sad day for us and Westminster Abbey". He added: "Penny and I are very disappointed by Lord Jauncey's ruling but we are pleased and relieved that the decision makes clear, once and for all, that neither of us have been guilty of any dishonesty or deliberate concealment."

Dr Neary added: "While we have been found to have made errors of judgement, which we accept and regret, we consider that the penalty is out of proportion." He said he was "deeply saddened" that it took more than eight months, a 12-day hearing and "an inordinate amount of money" to clear their names of allegations of dishonesty.

He added: "We have had ten fulfilling and demanding years at the Abbey, during which we believe we have contributed to the worship and to its musical reputation."

Dr Carr said: "The important point is that Lord Jauncey has affirmed our judgement on the same basis, which is essentially the betrayal of trust. I am relieved it has come to an end because we have all been waiting such a long time."

Organist criticised, page 9
Leading article, page 23



Vital clues to 'missing link'

The discovery of the oldest complete skeleton of a hominid 4ft tall will give scientists priceless clues about the "missing link" between early man and his ape ancestors, a British expert said in Johannesburg.....Page 15

Cancer findings

Breast cancer death rates have been published by the NHS in league table form. By next April anyone with a suspected breast tumour will be guaranteed an appointment with a specialist within two weeks.....Pages 6, 16

Tunnel walker

A Russian man believed to have spent two days walking the 30 miles from England to France through the Channel Tunnel was found by security staff near the French entrance.

Double pension bill for most

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ANNE ASHWORTH

MIDDLE-INCOME earners will be expected to pay up to 9 per cent of their salaries into pension schemes under radical government proposals to be unveiled next week.

Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, will publish the long-awaited Green Paper on pensions next Tuesday, setting out plans for retirement provision well into the next century. Under the proposals poorer groups will get a minimum pension guarantee and would not be expected to contribute to a second scheme.

Ministers have backed away from a blanket ruling requiring all earners to pay a proportion of their salary into a second pension scheme. "We would not expect anyone earning about £90 a week, to have to pay more," said a source.

The scheme, originally floated by Frank Field, the former Welfare Minister, was blocked by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, due to the huge start-up costs. Ministers were also wary that it would be seen as a tax rise on the middle-classes.

Whitehall insiders said that the Government would "ensure" that those who could afford to save more for their retirement would do so. While backing away from using the word compulsion they argue that the plan would include "incentives" for those on salaries of about £11,000 to pay more for their pensions.

At present everyone contributes about 4.6 per cent of their salary into Serps, the state earnings related pension scheme. Under the new proposals those who do not pay into occupational or private pension schemes would be expected to contribute an extra 4 per cent into a second "stakeholder pension". It is unclear whether Serps would be retained in the medium-term but in the long run it is likely to be phased out.

Those earning over the £11,000 mark would be expected to pay the extra percentage on the first £12,000 to £20,000 of their income. Wealthier people would not have to pay 8 per cent on all their earnings. At present about eight million of Britain's 32 million workers have no provision other than the basic state pension.

Ministerial sources denied reports that the income would be docked automatically from pay packets, but the Green Paper will outline a number of measures to "ensure" that employers help their staff set up their own second scheme. But the self-employed and certain smaller groups may be compelled to make their own pension provision.

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Both sides are wrong in knee-jerk reaction to this decision

Politicians and judges have to find a better way of dealing with each other. The knee-jerk reactions in the Pinochet affair have been a vivid warning of the conflicts ahead when the Human Rights Act comes into operation in 2000 and the judiciary regularly makes rulings on politically sensitive issues.

The instant responses to yesterday's decision by Jack Straw were depressingly predictable: denunciation by Baroness Thatcher for hiding behind legal posturing and praise by the Labour left-winger Jeremy Corbyn for a "courageous and brilliant decision" and a victory for universal human rights.

Both reactions are mistaken. Maybe it would have been better if Britain had never become involved and Chile should have been left to come to terms with its former dictator. Britain should not seek to be a global policeman of human rights. But that is not the situation. Senator Pinochet was here and the extradition application was made. It is not, and has never been, just a political matter, to do with an old ally or hospitality. Britain has laws that must be followed and cannot be brushed aside. All recent Home Secretaries have learnt that they must be seen to be following the law, or else they will be challenged in the courts.

There is "wide discretion" under the Extradition Act, as Mr Straw admitted last night, and arguments will continue about the balance of humanitarian and other considerations. But the key point, often forgotten, is that yesterday's announcement is only the start of a lengthy legal process. Mr Straw will be involved at the end in deciding whether to make an order for extradition, when he will again listen to representations about Senator Pinochet's health and other factors. So Mr Straw was essentially deciding to let the law run its course, allowing himself considerable leeway when he takes his final decision.



Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

However, both yesterday's decision and the law lords' ruling have been seen as political rather than legal. The backgrounds of the five law lords have been questioned in ways that would have inconceivable a few years ago. Whereas judges used to be accused by the left of being out-of-touch, now the main attacks come from the Right.

Even if many of the criticisms are unfair, senior judges need to realise that they have become public figures. They will play a crucial role in deciding disputes produced by devolution as well as following incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. This raises questions about how they operate: should more than five out of 12 sit on major cases? Should they continue to sit and vote in the Lords on legislative matters? Should the Lord Chancellor continue to sit as a judge?

Above all, should the appointment of senior judges be more open, rather than just emerging from the Lord Chancellor after consultations in the higher legal world? There is no evidence of partisan bias since Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the long-serving Conservative Lord Chancellor, recommended a number of liberal law lords while, under Lord Irvine of Laing, some more conservative ones have been appointed. The point is, rather, that the law lords are bound to be more publicly accountable.

Lord Irvine was wrong to postpone indefinitely plans for a Judicial Appointments Commission in which lay people would be involved in the selection of judges. Without such scrutiny, there may be pressure for formal confirmation hearings by the legislature, as in the United States. The judges can no longer assume their wisdom and disinterestedness will be taken for granted. They have to win public confidence.

Appeals will hit extradition bid at every stage

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL PINOCHET will appear at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court tomorrow for the start of legal proceedings likely to be so protracted that the frail 83-year-old may never be extradited to Spain.

The lengthy process will be dogged by appeals at every stage, possibly up to the House of Lords, which could take several months at least. At the end of it, the final decision on whether to grant extradition returns to Jack Straw once more, when the Home Secretary will have to decide whether to sign the document on surrender.

At this stage he will consider again if the general is still in good enough health to stand trial. But, health aside, the Home Secretary yesterday appeared to open up the prospect of another way out of the legal and political dilemma.

He said that no extradition request had been received from the Chilean Government, even though it had argued that the general should be returned to Chile to stand trial. A request would give the Home Secretary the less controversial option of extraditing the general to his home country rather than to Spain to face allegations of torture, hostage-taking and attempted murder.

The former dictator's first public appearance since his arrest on October 16 will be formally to answer the arrest warrant with which he was served in a private hospital near Harley Street.

Within days his lawyers, Kingsley Napley, are expected to launch a judicial review challenge to Jack Straw's decision yesterday authorising the extradition proceedings to go ahead.

THE LAW

They are also expected to mount an unprecedented challenge to the law lords' ruling by three to two that the general has no immunity from prosecution, in the wake of disclosures that Lord Hoffmann is a director of a charity linked to Amnesty International.

In the meantime the former dictator will appear before the Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Graham Parkinson, who hears initial proceedings in the most high profile cases in London.

The hearing, at which Pinochet may appear in a wheelchair, could be over in minutes. The aim is to commit him for the full extradition hearing, pending any appeal against the Home Secretary's decision.

A committal date could be fixed for January. But the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday confirmed that the main extradition hearing cannot go ahead until appeals against Jack Straw's decision have been exhausted — probably not until the new year.

An appeal by Pinochet's lawyers by way of judicial review would go first to the High Court and possibly then to the House of Lords.

If it fails, the way is clear for the committal hearing at which the magistrate, Mr Parkinson, must satisfy himself that the papers are in order — in other words, that the "authority to proceed" granted by Mr Straw relates to an extradition crime.

Under section nine of the Extradition Act 1989 he must be satisfied that the crimes for which extradition is wanted are crimes under English law. In this case they are.

Pinochet can appeal against his decision to commit him under section 11 of the Act by applying to the High Court's divisional court for a writ of habeas corpus. Again, there could be an appeal from either side against a ruling to the House of Lords.

When the case returns to the Home Secretary, he must — under section 13 of the Act — give notice to the general that he is contemplating making an order for his return, which gives his lawyers further opportunity to make representations.

Mr Straw would then hear final representations and make his decision on whether to sign an order for Pinochet's return.

But that would still not end the legal procedures. Pinochet's lawyers could apply once more for leave to seek a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision.

During this time, the general would remain in his rented home on the Wentworth estate, Surrey, where he is believed to be running up huge legal bills — one estimate puts it at several thousand pounds a day. A group of businessmen in Chile is raising funds for his defence.

Although legal aid is available for extradition proceedings, General Pinochet would not pass the means test.



RUSSELL BOYCE

Mario Artaza, Chile's Ambassador to Britain, leaving his embassy in London after being recalled yesterday

President is 'utterly dismayed'

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

CHILE

PRESIDENT Frei of Chile said that his Government was "dismayed and shocked" at the decision approving the extradition of General Pinochet to Spain.

The president was having lunch with his Brazilian counterpart, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, in Rio de Janeiro, where he is attending a meeting of Mercosur trade pact presidents, when he was informed of the decision taken by the Home Secretary.

"I can only express my utter dismay and shock at Mr Straw's decision," said President Frei after the lunch at the Palacio de Guanabara. Although President Frei made no other direct comments to journalists, diplomats at the summit said that he had already declared his intention to recall his Ambassador to London.

Unconfirmed reports of Chile's plan to break diplomatic relations with Britain were the main source of conversation at the Mercosur summit yesterday. President Frei is now expected to use the summit as a forum to voice his Government's "reiterated" protest against extradition moves. Although his Christian Democrat party does not see itself as a political ally of the former dictator, it is opposed to damaging Chile's fragile alliance between Right and Left, made as a transitory deal to reaffirm democracy. Although Argentina and the two other Mercosur countries, Uruguay and Paraguay, have expressed backing for the Chilean Government's position, President Cardoso of Brazil has said his country was in favour of extraditing General Pinochet to Spain. "I have to stand behind the European efforts to bring a notorious dictator to trial," President Cardoso said. "I also suffered days of exile and persecution at hands of Brazilian military rulers."

But renewed tension between pro and anti-Pinochet protesters manifested itself on the streets of Santiago yesterday, minutes after Mr Straw's announcement. Police reported that there were clashes between demonstrators and police in the centre of the capital and more than 20 people were arrested.

Hearing moved to secure complex

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL PINOCHET will swap the comfort of his temporary home in Surrey tomorrow to stand in the dock in a courts complex designed for Britain's most serious criminal and terrorist suspects.

He will make his first appearance in court in a £31 million building linked to Belmarsh top-security prison near Woolwich in southeast London.

Those who have stood trial there include Charlie Kray, brother of the notorious twins, and IRA terrorists such as Paul Magee, Gilbert Mac-

THE COURT

Namee, Peter Sherry, Liam O'Duibhir and Liam McCotter, accused of escaping from Whitemoor top-security jail.

The authorities have moved the hearing from Bow Street Magistrates' Court in Central London to provide greater protection for the general and to make it easier for the police to control any demonstrations either for or against the general. Court officials feared that these could pose a threat to public safety in the busy streets of Covent Garden surrounding Bow Street.

The courts at Belmarsh, linked by an 80-yard underground tunnel to the top-security prison, has a public gallery that is glassed off from the rest of the court room. Visitors go through security checks on entering the building and the court room.

The court is guarded by police from Scotland Yard's SO19 tactical firearms unit. The general will be driven there from the exclusive Wentworth estate in Surrey with an armed police escort, tracked by a helicopter.

'Pinochet is accused of murder, torture, hostage taking . . .'

Edited text of Jack Straw's written answer

I signed an authority to proceed in respect of Senator Pinochet today. The Spanish request for his extradition will now be considered by the courts. The reasons for my decision were sent to all the parties concerned in a letter from one of my officials as set out below:

☐ **Representations:**
Although there is no provision in the Extradition Act for representations at this stage in extradition proceedings, he has taken careful account of these in making his decision; in particular representations made to him by legal representatives of Senator Pinochet, the Spanish Government, the Chilean Government and legal representatives for 'the Interveners' before the House of Lords. He also received material from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.
The decision to issue an Authority to Proceed was taken personally by the Secretary of State.

☐ **Request from France and Switzerland:**
The Secretary of State received formal extradition requests from the Spanish Government on November 11, 1998, from the Swiss Government later the same day, and from the French Government on November 13, 1998.
7. The Secretary of State has considered these requests, and further material made available by the Swiss Government. He has given precedence to the Spanish request and notified the French and Swiss Governments accordingly.

☐ **The Secretary of State's approach to his decision:**
The Secretary of State has taken the approach that if it already appears to him that no order for the return of Senator Pinochet to Spain could lawfully be made, or would in fact be made, then he should not issue an authority to proceed. If those conditions do not exist he has a discretion whether or not to issue an authority to proceed.
He has had regard to the relevant extradition arrangement, namely the ECE. The UK's obligation is to extradite Senator Pinochet to Spain consistently with the ECE.

☐ **Extradition crimes:**
Section 1 of the Act provides that where, as in the case of Spain, extradition procedures under Part III of the Act are available, a person in the United Kingdom who "is accused in that state of the commission of an extradition crime" may be arrested and returned to that state in accordance with those procedures.
The Secretary of State considers that Senator Pinochet is accused, in Spain, of offences equivalent to UK offences of attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, torture, conspiracy to torture, hostage taking and conspiracy to take hostages.
Senator Pinochet is also charged, under Spanish law, with genocide, and the CPS advised, on behalf of the Spanish Government, that murder is also disclosed by the request.
The Secretary of State does not consider that the contents of the extradition request satisfied that definition of an extradition crime under section 2 of the Act in respect of these offences, and has therefore not included them in the authority to proceed.
The relevant test under the Act was explained by the Lord Chief Justice in the Divisional Courtwho said: "What is necessaryis that at the time of the extradition requestthe offence should be a criminal offence here..
The Secretary of state has proceeded on the basis that he is entitled, at this stage of the extradition proceedings against Senator Pinochet, to treat the Spanish request as well-founded as a matter of Spanish law.

☐ **Sovereign or diplomatic immunity:**
The Secretary of State has also proceeded on the basis that Senator Pinochet does not enjoy any immunity in relation to the offences in question. He has not accepted a representation made on behalf of Senator Pinochet that he should disregard the House of Lords judgement on the grounds of alleged bias on the part of one of the law lords. Nor does it appear to him that Senator Pinochet is entitled to diplomatic immunity or protection as the head of a special mission.

THE RULING

☐ **General restrictions:**
The Secretary of State has considered all the general restrictions on surrender in sections 6 and 12 of the Act. In particular, he has had regard to:

☐ **Political offences:**
Section 24 of the Act provides that no offence to which section 1 of the Suppression of Terrorism Act applies can be regarded as an offence of a political character. Since Spain is a designated country for the purposes of section 24, the Secretary of State considers that all the offences that are to be included in the authority to proceed fall within this provision. In any event it does not appear to him that the offences charged are of a political character.

☐ **Punishment for political opinions:**
The Secretary of State does not consider that there are good grounds for concluding that the request has been issued for this purpose.

☐ **The passage of time:**
The Secretary of State has not been notified by the Spanish Government that any of the offences for which extradition is sought are time barred from prosecution and considers that it is reasonable to proceed at this stage on footing that no relevant time bar appears to apply.
Nor does the Secretary of State consider that the passage of time would render it unjust or oppressive to issue an authority to proceed in this case. It does not appear that Senator Pinochet is unfit to stand trial. The offences for which return has been sought are serious, and in the nature of those for which, domestically, passage of time would not be regarded as restricting prosecution. The case is an accusation case and, ordinarily, the reliability of witnesses' memories may properly be regarded as a matter for the court of prosecution.

☐ **Accusation not made in good faith in the interests of justice:**
The Secretary of State does not believe that there are good grounds for concluding that the request has been issued other than in good faith in the interests of justice.

☐ **The Secretary of State's discretion:**
The Secretary of State has considered the ambit of his discretion under section 7 (4) and his residual general discretion under section 12 of the Act, which would apply in relation to the return of Senator Pinochet were he to be committed by the magistrate under section 9 of the Act. Contrary to certain of the representations made to him, he has been advised that the discretion conferred upon him is wide, and he has therefore taken a range of factors into consideration.
A large number of points were raised in representations concerning the Secretary of State's discretion, including aspects of issues that fall to be considered under the general restriction on return contained in the Act. In particular, the Secretary of State has had regard to the following:

☐ **Humanitarian considerations:**
Representations were made on behalf of the Senator that his age and health would render it unjust or oppressive to issue an authority to proceed. The Secretary of State has considered these carefully, but concluded that it does not appear that the Senator is unfit to stand trial and concluded that in all the circumstances it would not be unjust or oppressive for him to stand trial in relation to the offences with which he is charged. The Secretary of State also has in mind that this question, among others, can be re-examined in the light of any developments, at the stage when he comes to exercise his final discretion at the end of the extradition process, under section 12 of the Act.

☐ **Pending proceedings in Chile:**
The Chilean Government argued that Senator Pinochet should be returned to Chile where he could stand trial. However, there is no extradition request from the Chilean Government. Moreover, there is no provision of international law which excludes Spain's jurisdiction in this matter. The Secretary of State does not consider the possibility of a trial in Chile to be a factor which outweighs the UK's obligations under the ECE to extradite Senator Pinochet to Spain.

☐ **Other factors:**
The Secretary of State has also considered other factors, under his general discretion, including: (i) the possible effect of extradition proceedings on the stability of Chile, and its future democracy; and (ii) the possible effect of extradition proceedings on the UK national interest.
He has concluded that the material and representations put before him do not amount to sufficient grounds not to issue an authority to proceed.

☐ **Conclusion:**
In the event that Senator Pinochet is committed to await the Secretary of state's decision on his return, the Secretary of State will consider the extradition request afresh under section 12 of the Act. At that stage he will be able to take into account any findings in the committal proceedings and any *habeas corpus* proceedings as well as any further representations which Senator Pinochet may wish to make against return.
If Senator Pinochet decides to apply for leave to move for judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision, he reserves the right to expand upon the reasons given in this letter in an affidavit to be sworn by one of his officials.



A bleak midwinter on the cards

Hague's Christmas greeting has caught the spirit of the party, if not the festive season

UNDER a sky of merciless black clouds driven by biting winds a lonely, faceless figure, waist-deep in snow, plods wearily through a featureless landscape.

In front of him on the trackless hills, a handful of villainous-looking sheep, seemingly wearing executioner's hoods, draw him on to an uncertain future. The figure, leaning on his crook, is not driving his strays, but merely keeping up with them. There is light in the sky, but it is weak and fading and the unhappy band turnsd its backs to it and trudges deeper and deeper into the winter gloom.

Such is the festive season for William Hague.



Hague: chilly Christmas

His personally chosen Christmas card certainly makes a change from those dull old staples of perky robins and grinning snowmen. But, short of commissioning Damien Hirst to slice up and pickle a reindeer, it seems the Tory leader could hardly have come up with a more harrowing image than this, taken from a painting called "Through All Weather".

Even a reprise of last year's affair, that featured not a red-cheeked Father Christmas, but John Hoppener's portrait of William Pitt the Younger, the Tory's youngest and most illustrious Prime Minister, would have seemed more seasonal.

One of Mr Hague's friends has put some party spin on a card which reflects the parlous state of the Conservative Party than the celebration of Christ's birth. "Like most strong-minded men, William is very selective about the meaning of his cards. I suppose one could interpret its selection is many ways: the tough, resilient leader driving his MPS forward to save them."

The artist who supplied the stark image for the card is Mackenzie Thorpe, a friend and constituent of Mr Hague in Richmond, Yorkshire. Mr Hague would not be tempted to interpret why he chose this particular card, but said that he and Ffion chose the painting "because it reminds us both of the landscape and the people of the Yorkshire Dales." Far be it from anybody to suggest that a reminder like this surely would make certain nobody ever went near the place again.

Over at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have chosen much brighter images. Mr Blair has, however, already run into problems.

Although his personal card is a closely guarded secret, the Downing Street staff card is said to have sparked a row at Number 10. It depicted a dining table laid for a state banquet for President Nelson Mandela (carrying the very un-Christmaslike caption "Lunch for Nelson Mandela").

It was said that Mr Blair's chief press spokesman, Alastair Campbell, was so enraged by the inappropriateness of the card that he called for it to be pulped.

The Prime Minister's card last year was no less controversial. It depicted Mr Blair and his family on the steps on 10 Downing Street, but in an effort not to offend non-Christians the inscription inside made no reference to Christmas, leading to speculation that he intended outlawing the festival.

Other members of the cabinet have used their cards to reflect their personalities. Gordon Brown, as befits a Chancellor of the Exchequer, put out the design of his cards to tender. Relatives of Treasury staff submitted paintings, and Mr Brown selected two, a drawing of an angel by four year-old Emma Keywood, and another by the Sarah Whelan, the daughter of the Chancellor's personal press spokesman Charlie Whelan.

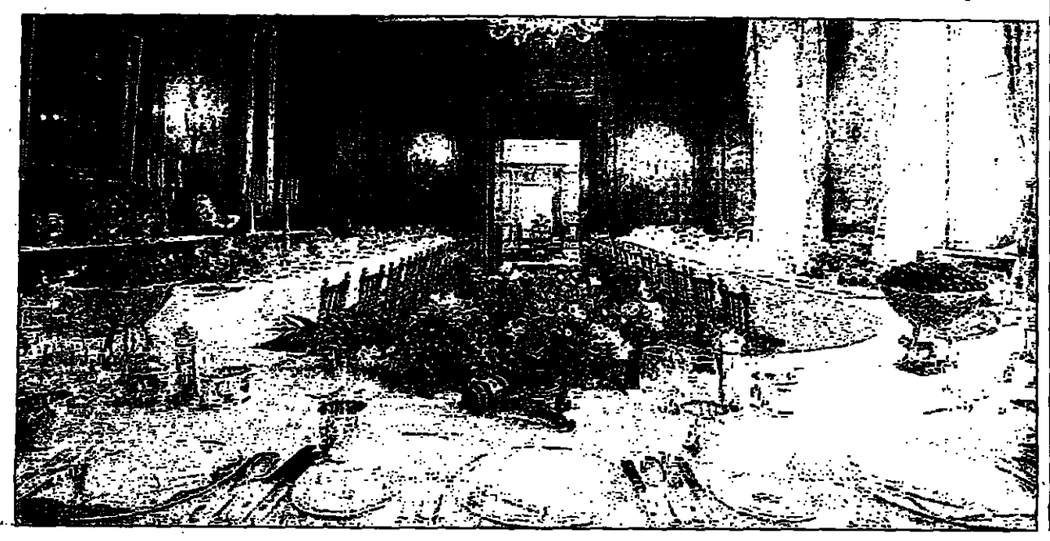
The card chosen by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, reflects his seafaring roots, a picture of *HMS Victory* by moonlight.

The Lord Chancellor, who has been accused of extravagance over the refurbishment of his state apartment at Westminster, has true to form splashed out on three different cards. Two are paintings by turn-of-the-century artists, the third features snow covered Christmas trees.

The Liberal leader Paddy Ashdown has sent two of Westminster scenes. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has gone for one by art studentsRobin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has the dowdiest card of all, a monochrome foreign office crest decorated with a blue ribbon.



The stark image of a shepherd herding his flock, chosen by William Hague; and, below, the card from No 10, allegedly vetoed by Alastair Campbell



Glasgow bid wins battle for Auld Lang Syne

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A RARE signed manuscript of *Auld Lang Syne*, handwritten by Robert Burns 200 years ago, is on its way back to Scotland after being secured at auction in New York for £118,437.

The single page, one of only seven in existence and the only one to include the complete text of the song, attracted worldwide interest and went for a record sum, plus commission, after fierce bidding.

It was bought from a private American collector by Glasgow City Council, with the help of the Heritage Lottery fund and private sponsors after a fundraising campaign started last month.

It will form the centrepiece of the world's largest Burns collection in the Mitchell Library, which already contains 14 original manuscripts of Burns's letters and poems.

The origin of the song, written shortly after 1788 and whose title means literally "old long since", remains obscure. By his own account, Burns heard it sung by an old man he encountered on one of his rambles around Scotland in 1777-78 during his search for old ballads to add to his collection.

In a letter to a friend, Mrs Dunlop, in 1778, which included a handwritten copy of the song, he exclaimed: "Light be the turf on the breast of the heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment! There is more of the fire of native genius in it than in half a dozen modern English bacchanalians."

The manuscript bought by Glasgow contains several crossings-out and includes the more familiar line: "We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet", rather than, as in some printed versions, "Let's hae a waught o' Malaga." It comprises five four-line stanzas and a four-line chorus and bears a few stains along the folds, witness to its age. It was originally part of a letter to a George Thomson written in September 1793.

Glasgow's bid was supported by the lottery, BT Scotland, *The Sunday Mail* and Lord McFarlane.

Stepfather is convicted of girl's murder

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MERCHANT seaman was found guilty yesterday of murdering his former girlfriend's five-year-old daughter.

Graham Sate, 25, of Grimsby, was also convicted of cruelty towards the girl, Lauren Creed. Lauren's mother, Sharon, 25, a senior RAF aircraftwoman based at Coltishall, Norfolk, had admitted two charges of cruelty towards the girl at an earlier hearing.

It emerged yesterday at Norwich Crown Court that Sate had been out of prison for only ten months when he murdered Lauren at the home he shared with her mother. After finding him guilty, the jury was told that he had previously been convicted of the attempted murder and of an attack on a fellow prison inmate.

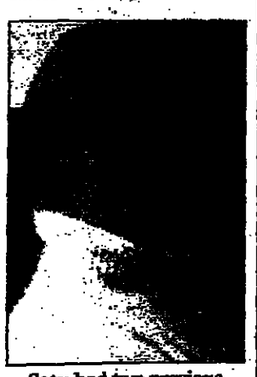
Lauren was declared dead shortly after paramedics found her lifeless on the floor of the home at RAF Coltishall in October 1997. Pathologists said her liver had been crushed. Either she had been punched or kicked as she stood against a wall, or stamped on as she lay on the floor.

The court was told that the girlhad 167 fresh bruises and abrasions on her body and a fractured rib. Doctors said the injuries had been inflicted in the 24 hours before death.

Jurors had been told that in 1997 a neighbour had become so concerned about the Lauren's welfare that she asked the little girl why she was so badly bruised — and recorded the answers on tape.

Part of the tape was played during the trial. Jurors heard the girl say: "Daddy [Sate] punched me in the belly today. Slapped me. Punched me."

Sate and Creed will be sentenced on Friday.



Sate: had two previous convictions for attacks

Woman escaped death as gun jammed twice

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A WOMAN yesterday told the inquest into a Briton shot dead in a Nairobi bar how she escaped death only because a gun jammed twice.

Rachel Beckenham, who works for the Foreign Office, said the gun worked the third time, killing Colin Baker, an aid worker, who was sitting behind her.

Mr Baker, 45, an administrative director with the London-based charity ActionAid, had been sitting at a popular downtown bar after setting up a project in Kenya. He had been enjoying his first day off in two months.

In a statement read out to the inquest at Chichester, West Sussex, Miss Beckenham described how the weapon clicked when it was aimed at her head after the two gunmen ran into the bar and started shouting.

She said: "It was very noisy with music, the television and people talking. We could not hear what the gunmen were shouting. I thought it was a strange kind of practical joke being played on the other customers or some of the staff."

The gunmen became angry and told Miss Beckenham and her colleague to be quiet. She said: "One fired straight at me but the gun just went click. It was fired again and went click again." The gunman then turned his attention to Mr Baker who was sitting behind them at the bar. "He fired behind me and the gun went off and a voice shouted, 'Someone please help me.'"

The raiders then herded Miss Beckenham and other customers and staff into the bar's lavatories and kitchen before ordering the manager to open the safe.

The bar manager carried Mr Baker to his car and drove him to the local hospital but he was declared dead on arrival. The gunmen have not yet been captured by the Kenyan authorities.

Mr Baker, who was born in Arundel, West Sussex, was divorced from his wife, who now lives in Switzerland. The couple had two children.

After the hearing the dead man's brother, Alan, from Bognor Regis, said: "It was only at the memorial service that we realised what a great job he did. He was immensely respected in his job and had found exactly the right job for himself."

Verdict: unlawful killing.

RAF officer loses murder appeal

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN RAF squadron leader, jailed for life for murdering his wife while besotted with a young Serbian translator, yesterday lost his appeal against conviction.

Nicholas Tucker, 47, claimed that his affair with his blonde mistress, Dijana Dudukovic, 21, whom he met while serving as a United Nations military observer in Bosnia, did not provide a motive for murder. He had argued that the prosecution at Norwich Crown Court last December had not proved that he killed his wife Carol, 52, by faking a car accident.

But in a reserved judgment in the Court of Appeal, three judges ruled that the jury's verdict had not been flawed and that his conviction was not unsafe.

Tucker's girlfriend, Jenny Peacock, 47, whom he met before he was convicted, sobbed "No!" as the judges announced their decision. As he was led from the dock he mouthed "I love you" to her. Mrs Peacock, who declined to comment, said recently that she would stand by him.

Supporters said that they planned to make an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

At his trial the prosecution said that Tucker, who has two children, had faked the accident after taking his wife out to dinner near his base at RAF Honnington in Suffolk. As he drove her home the car left the road, toppled down an embankment and into the River Lark. It was claimed that Tucker held her under the water and then staged the accident. He denied this and said that he veered off the road to avoid two deer. During the trial it was alleged that he was infatuated by Ms Dudukovic, who has since married and lives in Switzerland.

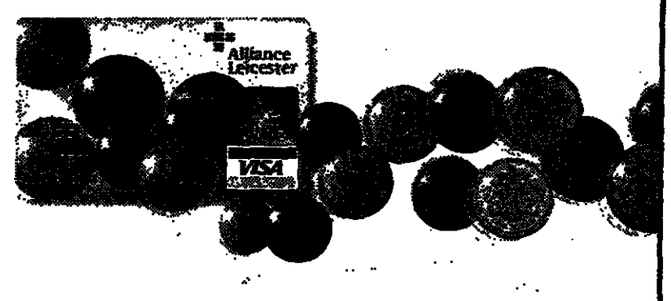
But David Cocks, QC, for Tucker, told Lord Justice Judge, Mr Justice Sedley and Mr Justice Hughes during the appeal hearing that a brief, sexually unsuccessful fling with Ms Dudukovic was not a "realistic foundation" for alleging that he wanted to get rid of his wife.

Lord Justice Judge rejected Tucker's claim that the trial judge wrongly ruled that there was a case against him fit for the consideration of a jury. He said it was "pre-eminently a case for the decision of the jury", adding: "The only inference we can reach from their verdict is that the jury rejected his evidence. It also follows ... that they were sure the appellant was faking his injuries."

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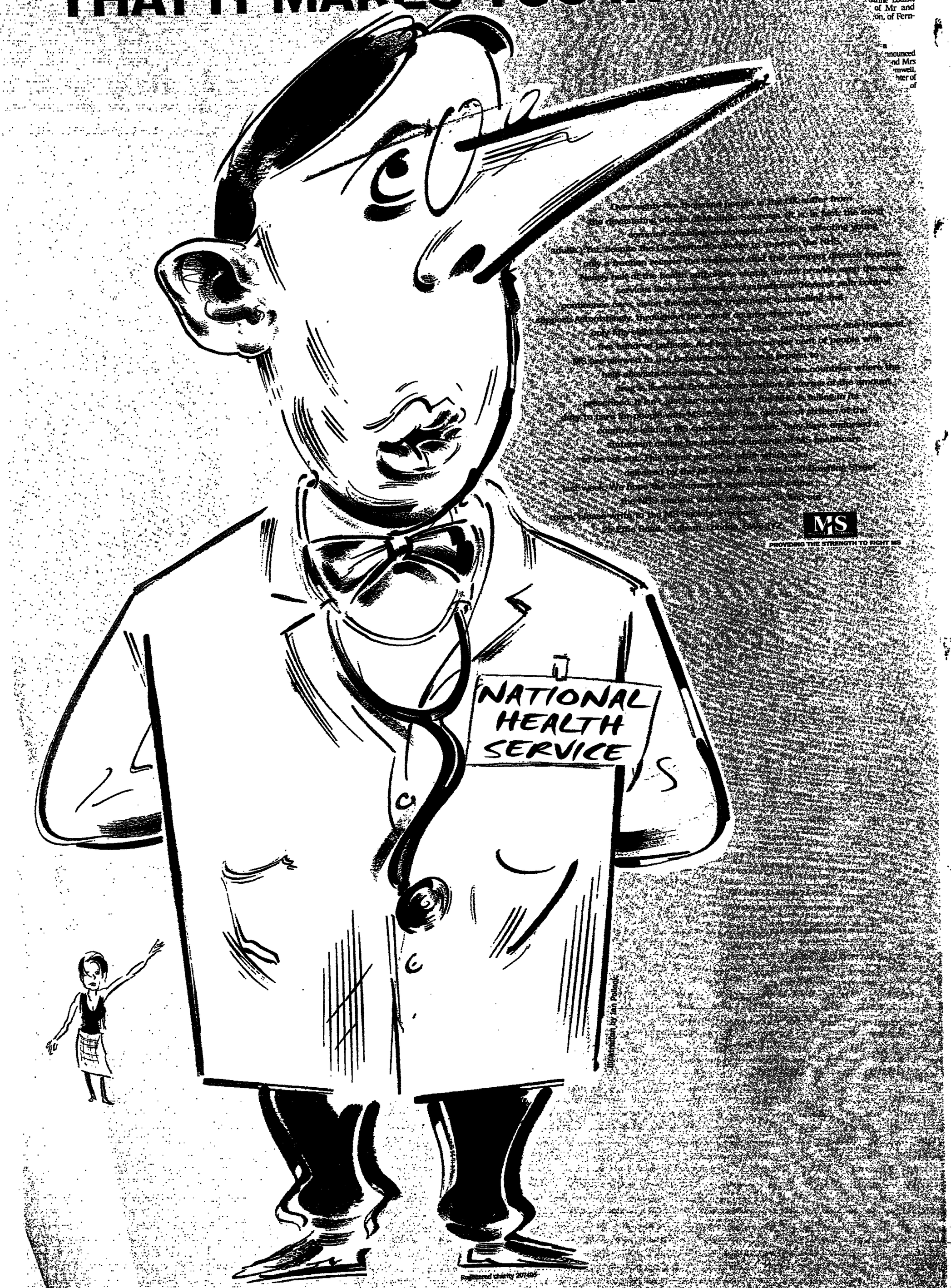


Illustration by Jan Pollock

Over eighty-five thousand people in the UK suffer from the devastating effects of Multiple Sclerosis. It is, in fact, the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults.

Despite the Government's pledge to improve the NHS, only a fraction receive the specialised care this complex disease requires.

Nearly half of the health authorities simply do not provide even the most basic services like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, continence care, vision therapy, drug treatment, counselling and specialist nursing.

Unbelievably, throughout this whole country there are only fifty-eight specialist MS nurses. That's one for every one thousand, two hundred patients. And how can anyone hope to cope with MS and attempt to find a cure if there's no proper NHS care?

Today, the Multiple Sclerosis Society is launching a campaign to highlight the appalling inequalities in the provision of care for people with MS. Especially the lack of access to the country's leading MS specialists. Together, they have produced a statement called 'An National Standard for MS Healthcare' to be used as a benchmark by which health authorities can be judged by the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Please write to the Chief Executive at the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 25 Effie Road, Fulham, London SW6 1EE.

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IVF authority allows women to share eggs

'Payments in kind' should make fertility treatment cheaper, writes **Ian Murray**

WOMEN are to be allowed to exchange their eggs for cut-price or free fertility treatment after a change of heart by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Egg-sharing, as the system is known, means that a healthy woman who cannot be made pregnant by her partner donates eggs to a clinic and is then paid in kind by being given expensive treatment at a subsidised price or free.

The authority, which regulates and licenses all fertility clinics and has the power to set prices, has also reluctantly decided that men should continue to be allowed to claim a £15 fee for sperm donations.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the authority, said yesterday that it believed "the donation of sperm or eggs to create life should be a gift, freely and voluntarily given. We would like to see a culture of altruism where donors come forth voluntarily and we will continue to look at ways in which that might be achieved."

In a consultation paper last February the authority recommended dropping all payments other than those for reasonable expenses. However, the consultation process has persuaded it that there is a strong case for egg-sharing even though this could "buy" thousands of pounds worth of treatment for a woman.

"While no one can have a problem with a woman who is undergoing IVF freely and voluntarily choosing to share her surplus eggs with someone else, we recognise the concerns arising when subsidised treatment is offered for such eggs," Mrs Deech said.

"The overwhelming view of the authority was that it would not be right to ban paid egg-sharing, which can be enormously beneficial to both sharer and receiver. We were influenced by the argument that egg sharers are not motivated by money but the desire for a baby."

However, the authority says that egg-sharing will need to be closely controlled and regulated by new guidelines that will be written into its code of practice. This will look at consent, the information that is given to potential sharers and the choices they have when a limited number of eggs are collected.

Usually the donor does not know to whom the donated eggs are given, although she can stipulate, for example, that only married couples can receive them.

Given the acute shortage of donated eggs — only 250 babies were born from them last year — it is extremely unlikely that any would be available for research purposes, including cloning. They would be used in this way only in the unlikely event that the donor gave written permission.

The decision to go on paying men for sperm donation was taken because the authority was told that the removal of payments would seriously jeopardise the supply of British donors at a time when an international trade is growing on the Internet.

"We feel it is important that the supply of safe, screened sperm in the UK remains adequate and do not feel that £15 payment is so wrong that we are prepared to threaten the entire service," Mrs Deech said.



Scooby, who was collared by Ann Widdecombe when she was Prisons Minister

Scourge of the drug gangs sniffs goodbye

By Russell Jenkins

SCOOBY, the sniffer dog who was so successful that drug gangs took out a £20,000 contract on its life, is being forced to retire through ill health.

The seven-year-old labrador, recruited from an animal rescue kennels as a puppy, grew up to become a scourge of drug dealers. His nose has helped to put many behind bars.

The Prison Service announced yesterday that Scooby will shortly be forced to step down from official duties at Garth Prison, near Preston, Lancashire, because he is suffering from a debilitating hereditary eye disease.

However, the dog's handlers were anxious to pay tribute to his phenomenal record at sniffing out illicit drugs. During Scooby's professional life, he has helped in the arrest of more than 150 people bringing in drugs into the jail.

Garth houses about 640 long-serving prisoners, many serving life sentences and others with serious convictions for drug-running running into millions of pounds. Before Scooby took up his post, drugs were a big problem, with mandatory searches turning up illicit drugs in 60 per cent of the cells. In the four years that the animal has been vetting prison visitors, that figure has been slashed to 14 per cent.

Scooby was so feared by criminals that a number of threats have been made against him. These were taken so seriously by Lancashire Police that an armed response unit was once stationed at the home of his handler, John Reader.

Mr Reader said: "We had intelligence from inside the prison that police had received a serious threat. But he's still alive. He is a character. He is perfectly happy to be pushed, prodded and poked by visitors' children, but villains beware."

Scooby will retire to Mr Reader's home, where he will be kept as a pet.

Children fall prey to sweets 'rip-off'

By Paul Wilkinson

CHILDREN buying pick'n'mix sweets could be spending up to 10p a time on the bag.

Yesterday a senior trading standards official described the policy of using heavy paper bags for the sweets, which are sold by weight, as "extortionate" but "perfectly legal".

Gordon Gresty, North Yorkshire's chief trading standards officer, was alerted by a grandfather incensed by what his granddaughters bought during a day out. Derek Stirk, 65, a retired electrical engineer from Kirkby Fleetham, near Catterick, North Yorkshire, paid 60p each for a bag of sweets for Tanya, 8, and her sister Samantha, 6, at BhS in Middlesbrough.

When he weighed the empty bag it was priced at 4.7p. When he queried it with staff they told him that the scales allowed for the weight of the bag, but they were unable to demonstrate how.

He then travelled 200 miles around Teesside and North Yorkshire, checking bags in other outlets. At the Dickens Hypermarket in Darlington, Co Durham, he found they weighed 4p and at Woolworths in Northallerton they were a penny. Mr Stirk said: "Some of these stores have paper bags which are strong enough to hold potatoes. Children are just being ripped off and I think its scandalous."

Job hunt will take a degree of success

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

A DEGREE will become increasingly important in securing a job over the next ten years, even in supervisory and middle-management areas, according to research published yesterday.

Independent consultants dismissed fears that the expansion of universities will swamp the graduate employment market. The spread of new technologies, increased competition and a growing reliance on qualifications are expected to create 1.5 million more graduate jobs by 2006.

Neil Blake, of Business Strategies, which compiled the report, said graduates had maintained advantages over those without qualifications, despite the growth in their numbers. They earned twice as much, on average, as unqualified people and were far more likely to be in work.

Mr Blake said: "One message from the research is that anybody capable of doing a degree should not be put off by the job prospects. Many graduates are going to take jobs traditionally filled by people with lower qualifications, but they will still be much better off than other sections of the population."

Among the jobs likely to be further colonised by graduates are nursing, management and administration.

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES



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Tables disclose breast cancer death rates

First rankings are published as plans for revised Patient's Charter emerge, reports Ian Murray

DEATH rates from breast cancer have become the first clinical indicator to be published since league tables for the National Health Service were introduced in 1993.

By next April anyone with a suspected breast tumour will be guaranteed an appointment with a specialist within two weeks.

As the league tables were published, Greg Dyke, the television executive chosen by the Government to devise a new NHS Patient's Charter, revealed his proposals for a more locally based system. This was immediately criticised by patients' groups who claimed that it would lead to inequality of service around the country.

The figures show a huge difference between the lowest death rate from breast cancer and the highest. Taking the national average as being 100, the mortality ratio on the Isle of Wight is 81, while the level in Solihull is 119.

Since most women who die of the disease have been suffering from it for several years, they probably developed it before the modern screening programme was working fully. The figures, therefore, are unlikely to reflect the current situation accurately, although they highlight the amount that has to be done to level out health inequalities. The indicators issued yesterday also include for the first time the number of written complaints about hospital and community health services that have been received and settled locally within four weeks.

On average, each hospital gets 211 complaints and sorts out 136 of them in four weeks. There is a wide variation, from Brighton Healthcare NHS Trust, a general hospital that received 1,038 complaints, to the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust, a mental hospital that received four. Comparisons of dissatisfaction are all but impossible from the tables, however, because they do not show the size of hospitals.

It is because of the large differences he found in hospitals and clinics across the country that Mr Dyke said yesterday that the Patient's Charter should be replaced with a locally based system. "Only by developing charters locally are we likely to avoid both the cynicism that greeted the introduction of the original charter in so many parts of the NHS and get the support of staff and patients locally," he said.

The idea was immediately attacked by Claire Rayner, the broadcaster who chairs the Patients' Association. She was one of the 20-strong advisory panel of experts who complained earlier this week that they had been sidelined during the final stages of preparing the report.

Setting goals locally would lead to more "postcode prescribing", she said, and would set in concrete the present inequalities. "People living streets apart will get totally different treatment for the same problem," she said. "This is totally unacceptable."

Mr Dyke was unrepentant. Touring the country, he had found the old Patient's Charter was desperately unpopular. He said: "It gave patients so-called rights that were not really rights at all, and it engendered a blame culture. It also measured those parts of the NHS that were most easily measurable, and not necessarily those most important to the patients, or to the staff."

League tables, page 16



CARL RUTH

John Ruffer with a drawing of the *Bismarck*, which sank *HMS Hood*: "I am the only man left alive who saw both sinkings"

Survivor recalls Bismarck chase

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

A FORMER Royal Marine officer who believes that he is the only Second World War veteran still alive to have witnessed the sinking of the battlecruiser *HMS Hood* and, a few days later, the German battleship *Bismarck*, yesterday recalled the two events as the most frightening of his life.

The memories came flooding back to John Ruffer, 87, a former captain, after reading of the plan, reported in yesterday's *Times*, by an American researcher to dive down to the *Hood* to try to discover why it was sunk by a single shell from the *Bismarck*. He said: "Of course it is something you never forget and I think I am unique in being the only person left who saw both sinkings."

He was a Royal Marine, but trained as a gunnery officer and was serving on board *HMS Norfolk*, one of the Royal Navy ships that were shadowing the *Bismarck* in May 1941 in the Denmark Straits, leading the German flagship towards *HMS Hood* and *HMS Prince of Wales*. Mr Ruffer, from Stokesley, near Middlesbrough, recalled: "I was watching *Hood* through a pair of binoculars. She was about 14 miles away. Both *Hood* and the *Prince of Wales* had opened fire on *Bismarck*, but suddenly *Hood* just blew up." He added: "The admiral on board also saw it through his binoculars and I always remember what he said next. He said we had better go and try and cripple *Bismarck*. My ship only had one inch of armour and *Hood* had 14 inches, and we were going to try and sink *Bismarck*, which had 15-inch guns."

In the chase that followed, Mr Ruffer's ship, a cruiser, played a crucial role in harassing *Bismarck*, which was sunk four days after *HMS Hood* was destroyed. He said: "I remember *Bismarck* turning her guns towards us, but we and the other Royal Navy ships fired about 1,000 shells at her. She was red hot and eventually just blew to pieces."

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Police to keep fines as speed cameras multiply

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

POLICE are to be allowed to keep the millions of pounds raised in fines from the thousands of motorists caught speeding every year by roadside speed cameras — and the number of cameras is likely to quadruple.

The Treasury decision had long been called for by chief officers who are convinced of the cameras' effectiveness at cutting accident rates but worried about the high running costs. The cameras are £20,000 each, with the cost of installation and a year's maintenance estimated at another £20,000.

Now the number of cameras on motorways, main roads and at accident blackspots is likely to reach quadruple to 2,500 in a government safety campaign. Next month ministers will set a target of cutting the annual rate of 3,600 road deaths to 1,500 within ten years. Speed camera fines are likely to rise from £40 to £60.

Home Office ministers argued that the Government's campaign could work only if police speed cameras were in force. At present only one in eight of the country's 600 cameras is operational at any time. The cameras catch about 220,000 speeding motorists each year, raising £17 million.

A spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers said yesterday: "Ministers have ambitious targets to reduce the death toll but it can only happen if we have the resources to police the roads effectively. The money from speed cameras will now allow us to do this properly."

Motoring organisations have previously resisted suggestions that police should keep money from fines to fund more speed cameras, claiming that it would be seen as an extra tax on motorists. Yesterday the AA said it would support the move, but only if the money was reserved for policing.

The Treasury's decision will also allow other government departments and agencies to keep money raised from fines, levies and fees. Ministers have agreed that the £350,000 a year raised by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority in wheelclamping fines and sales of unclaimed cars from vehicle pounds can be used to pay for new wheel-clamping teams.

Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told MPs yesterday that he had approved the DVLA's request to help to combat illegal parking.

He said the Treasury would have to approve all requests by departments to keep such revenue but that he hoped to be flexible. The move is part of a government attempt to loosen the Treasury's grip on all areas of revenue-raising.

Schroder supports Blair in tax row

BY ROLAND WATSON AND ROGER BOYES

TONY BLAIR enlisted the help of Gerhard Shroder, the German Chancellor, yesterday as he tried to prevent the issue of Europe-wide taxes hijacking tomorrow's EU summit in Vienna.

In a joint statement issued in London and Bonn, the pair effectively ruled out the harmonisation of personal taxes and said they did not favour a "unified" system of corporate taxation.

However, the statement, issued at Mr Blair's request, received stronger billing in No 10 than its rather downbeat presentation in Bonn. Initially the Chancellor's office denied it existed, something which was later blamed on a presentational glitch.

The move, prompted by the growing debate about taxation under the single currency, was designed to neutralise an issue that in the past ten days has seen Britain at odds with France and Germany.

The Tories turned their fire on what the statement did not address, such as pressures to harmonise VAT, capital taxes and savings taxes.

With the EU's 15 heads of government converging on Vienna today for their twice-yearly get-together, Downing Street admitted that Britain's £2 billion annual rebate would come under pressure. But Mr Blair said he would give no ground. "The British rebate will stay because it is right," he told MPs at Prime Minister's Question Time.

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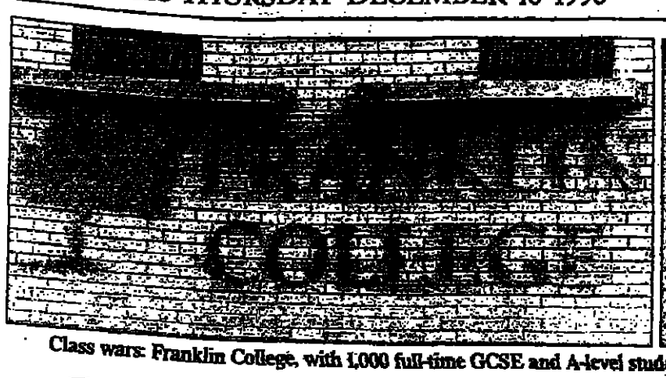
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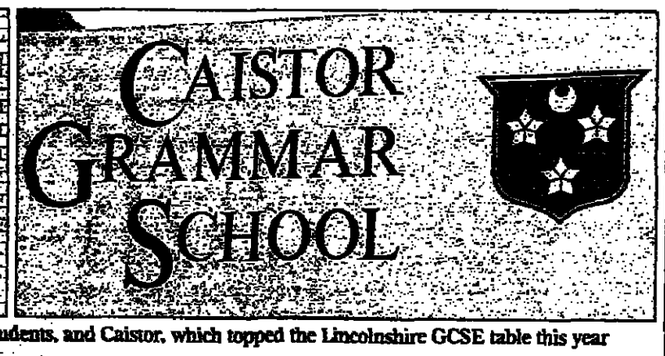
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Class wars: Franklin College, with 1,000 full-time GCSE and A-level students, and Caistor, which topped the Lincolnshire GCSE table this year

Grammar head accuses rival of pupil-poaching

County's leading school saw red after ex-student appeared in college advert, writes **Paul Wilkinson**

THE head of a successful grammar school has accused his neighbouring sixth-form college of poaching his star pupils.

Roger Hale says that Franklin College, in Grimsby, is marketing itself in an "aggressive and rude manner". He was incensed by a local newspaper advertisement for the college that featured a former pupil of Mr Hale's who had won an Oxford scholarship.

The quarter-page advertisement boasts that the college offers "more freedom than a school" and portrays Ben Goose, 18, who won a choral scholarship to Christ Church, Oxford, last summer, as a college success.



Roger Hale: headmaster of Caistor Grammar

Mr Hale, the head of Caistor Grammar School, has complained to the Advertising Standards Authority about the advertisement in the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph*. He has also protested to the Further Education Funding Council, which finances the college, and to Peter Newcombe, Franklin's principal.

Mr Hale, whose grant-maintained school 12 miles outside Grimsby regularly tops the Lincolnshire GCSE results league, said: "I'm not sure this advert has been published in good faith by the college. In my view, it breaches the guidelines of the Secondary Heads' Association, which state that you should not make adverse comments about other schools.

"They have taken one student, pictured him in a large way and say that this student thinks that colleges offer more freedom than a school. That may be true, but I don't like to see a photograph of someone I personally taught for two years used in an aggressive marketing campaign against my school."

The two heads finally met last week. Mr Hale said: "I told him I thought the advert was unfortunate and I think he took that on board.

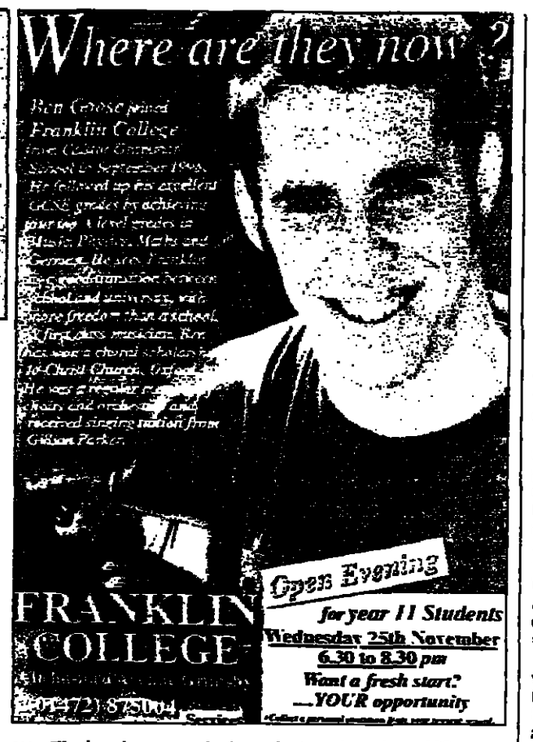
"We are not saying people like Ben are our students. Our pupils have the right to choose where to go for their further education after GCSEs. In an area which has half a dozen A-level providers you have to be careful how you behave. I know Mr Newcombe is not a member of the Secondary Heads Association, but I don't think Franklin are playing the game by the rules."

In *The Times* table of 1998 GCSE results, Caistor Grammar came top in Lincolnshire with 100 per cent of pupils achieving five or more grades A* to Cs. Among its alumni is the comedian Dawn French.

Mr Newcombe said: "I will certainly not apologise for the advertisement. I am not familiar with the heads' code of conduct, but it seems not entirely appropriate for every type of organisation. I would never be derogatory about another institution. The advert was intending to show how a student might improve on existing success. The jury is out on whether we shall run it again. My role in post-16 education is to inform as many young people as possible about their options."

Franklin College was founded by Mr Newcombe in 1990 and now has has 1,000 full-time GCSE and A-level students and another 1,000, mainly adults, on part-time vocational training. It runs 31 A-level courses and 20 at AS level.

Mr Newcombe said the advertisement was one of 20, each featuring a successful student. All of them had agreed to appear and had not been paid.



Warning on allergy testing by post

By Mark Henderson

HIGH street and mail-order food allergy tests are largely unreliable and at worst dangerous, a Consumers' Association report published yesterday has found.

Expensive services that claim to test patients for allergies and intolerances so they can cut troublesome foods from their diets often have no medical basis and return the wrong results, according to research published in *Health Which?* Many fail to spot real allergies and diagnose nonexistent ones that can stop patients eating properly.

A panel of five experts, three with known allergies, tried four test services priced from £20 to £105. None proved to be a reliable indicator of real allergies.

Only 1.5 per cent of the population has a classic food allergy that causes an instant severe reaction than can in extreme cases be fatal. Many experts believe perceived allergy problems are caused by stress, illness or overindulgence.

Drink-ban father forces boy to drive

By Simon de Bruxelles

A FATHER banned for drink-driving forced his 12-year-old son to drive ten miles to collect him from a nightclub, a court was told yesterday.

Chris O'Driscoll set off at 3am, despite being barely tall enough to look over the steering wheel of his father's Ford Escort. He drove into Cardiff city centre because his father had left his car at home.

He picked up his father, Christopher O'Driscoll, his mother, Vera, and a family friend, and had almost reached home when police stopped the car because he indicated right before turning left. The boy then tried to pretend that he had not been at the wheel.

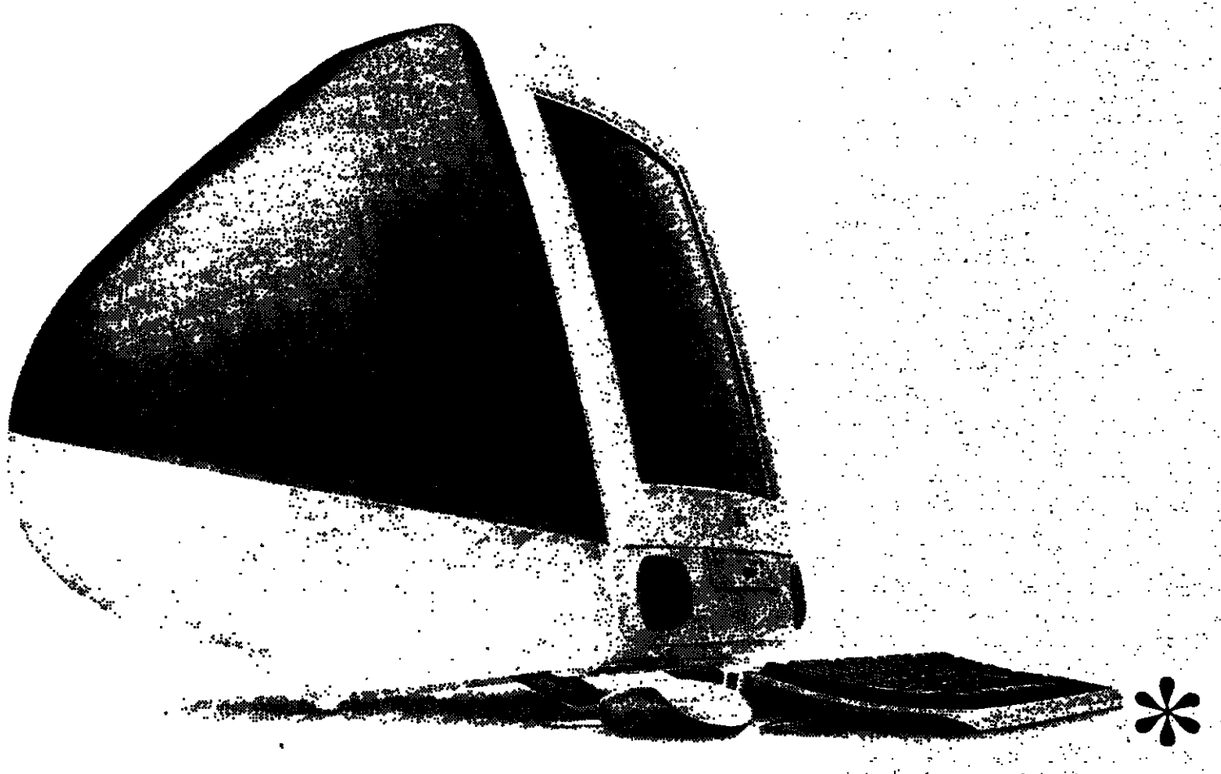
Tony Trigg, for the prosecution, told Cardiff magistrates: "The officers saw the boy climbing over the driver's seat and into the back of the car. His father was in the passenger seat in an intoxicated state and was arrested".

O'Driscoll, 36, of Ely, Cardiff, was more than twice the legal driving limit. He admitted four offences, including being in charge of a car with excess alcohol and aiding and abetting his son to drive. He was given a further one-year driving ban and ordered to attend an alcohol education centre.





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Abbey organist condemned for secret dealings

Law lord rules that Dean was justified in sacking Martin Neary, reports Ruth Gledhill

MARTIN NEARY, the organist at Westminster Abbey, and his wife, Penny, used their positions to make "secret profits" over a long time and failed to tell the Abbey what they were doing. Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle ruled in his report yesterday. He found that Dr Neary's conduct fatally undermined the relationship of trust and confidence that should have existed between them and the Abbey.

The Dean and Chapter of the Abbey were justified in summarily dismissing Dr Neary and his wife, who was the music department secretary, Lord Jauncey concluded. In a 52-page judgment, the retired law lord said that the Nearys "entirely failed to inform the Abbey authorities of what they were doing", although "there were ample opportunities so to do and no good reason for not doing so".

Lord Jauncey, who had to determine whether the actions of the Nearys amounted to misconduct after Dr Neary appealed against his dismissal to the Queen, said that the Nearys' conduct struck at the root of the trust and confidence inherent in their relationship with the Dean and Chapter.



Lord Jauncey: ruled that sacking was justified

"For some three and a half years Dr and Mrs Neary ran a business whose principle income-earning assets were the lay vicars and the choristers. They derived profits from this business in the shape of fixing fees and surpluses on events involving the choir. They did not tell anybody in the Abbey what they were doing. They disclosed to no one there that they, and not the Abbey authorities, were entering into some contracts on behalf of the choir."

Lord Jauncey said that Dr Neary at one stage sought a pay rise for Mrs Neary without mentioning that she was already receiving "substantial sums" by way of fixing fees. He notes the existence of a separate account set up by the Nearys which became known to the Abbey auditor. "By these activities and their silence during this long period they were in clear breach of their duty of fidelity to the Abbey."

Lord Jauncey notes that the consent of the Dean and Chapter had to be was obtained for every event involving the choir. "It must have been obvious that a considerable amount of events were not being processed through the Abbey accounts department." But he says there was an apparent lack of interest in the Abbey in what was going on with regard to non-Abbey events.

The Abbey choir consists of 12 lay vicars who are professional singers, a number of deputy lay vicars and ten boy choristers. The lay vicars were contracted for services in the Abbey, their salary being taxed at source. Fees for broadcast, recordings and outside concerts were paid to them gross and taxed under Schedule D.

Problems arose after April 1994 when the Inland Revenue asked that Abbey employees must be taxed at source on their extra income as well as their salaries. To preserve the Schedule D system for lay vicars, Dr Neary arranged that fees for events outside the Abbey should be paid to a separate account operated by Mrs Neary, who would then pay the lay vicars.

In October 1994, Mrs Neary opened a new account in the name of Neary Music, and in April 1997 a company, Neary Music Ltd, was incorporated, with Mrs Neary as sole shareholder and director.

Mrs Neary told the Inland Revenue that she was acting as a fixer for providing singers and musicians for performances. Between April 1994 and December 1996 she received fixing fees of more than £11,900, as well as a dividend from Neary Music of £1,500 in 1997.

Lord Jauncey says the taking by Mrs Neary of fixing fees was never disclosed to the Abbey authorities by her or Dr Neary until their accountant informed the Abbey auditor in March 1998.

It was the taking of fixing fees and the retention of surpluses in respect of events organised on behalf of the Abbey that the Dean, Wesley Carr, relied on for his decision that the Nearys were guilty of gross misconduct.

However, Lord Jauncey said: "I must emphasise at the outset that the Abbey's case against the Nearys was based on impropriety and not dishonesty. Furthermore, Dr Neary's well recognised musical abilities and the hard work which he and Mrs Neary had done on behalf of the Abbey and the choir were not in question."

Lord Jauncey is at one point critical of the Dean and Chapter's convening of a disciplinary hearing for the Nearys at a few hours' notice and without a detailed statement of the case being made against them. That "must score gamma minus on the scale of natural justice", he says

Lord Jauncey says that had the parties in the dispute been prepared to discuss openly the Abbey's concerns, "it might perhaps have been possible to avoid the present unhappy situation with all its attendant publicity and to have reached a rather less dramatic resolution of their differences."

Leading article, page 23

PETER TREVOR

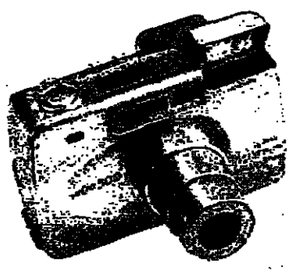


Dr and Mrs Neary yesterday: report said they failed to tell the Abbey of their actions

FROM DISPUTE TO JUDGMENT DAY

Feb 1997: Dr Wesley Carr appointed Dean of Westminster.
Sept 6: Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.
March 10, 1998: Abbey introduces £5 admission fee, ending free access to the nave except for worship or prayer.
March 20: Dr Martin Neary, the organist and master of choristers, and his wife, Penny, the concert secretary, are suspended because of alleged "financial irregularities".
March 23: The Nearys are asked to attend an informal meeting, after which they receive letters outlining four charges and summoning them to a disciplinary meeting.
March 26: Nearys start legal proceedings against the proposed disciplinary hearing. Abbey postpones hearing.
March 27: Choristers' parents informed of dispute and told that Holy Week concert is cancelled.
March 30: Dr Neary's suspension disclosed by *The Times*.
March 31: Frank Field MP accuses Dean of trying to haul Nearys before a "kangaroo court".
April 2: Dean writes to choristers' parents confirming that the dispute has nothing to do with "musical quality, pastoral concern or teaching ability".
April 5: All 32 sets of chorister parents write to Dean and Chapter requesting Dr Neary's reinstatement pending independent investigation. Request denied.
April 9: Disciplinary hearing for the Nearys held before Dean and Canon Michael Middleton, Abbey treasurer.
April 22: They are dismissed for financial irregularities and loss of trust. Dean accuses Nearys of forming Neary Music Ltd for handling Abbey choir contracts and retaining surplus monies that "did not belong to it".
April 24: Martin Neary Support Group is launched in a letter to *The Times*.
April 28: Four Canons of Westminster — Anthony Harvey, Donald Gray, David Hutt and Michael Middleton — write to *The Times* taking joint responsibility for dismissal of the Nearys.
April 30: Of 32 sets of parents, 28 write to *The Times*: "What Christian family would treat its own as the Dean and Chapter have treated the Nearys?"
May 7: Parents of Abbey choristers who sang at funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, announce they are considering legal action against Dean for withholding BBC broadcast fees for the boys' services.
July 3: Dr Neary presents petition to the Queen in her capacity as Visitor of Westminster Abbey, asking her to resolve dispute. The Queen, through the office of the Lord Chancellor, appointed Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle to be her commissioner.
Sept 11: Appeal hearing starts
Oct 6: Westminster Abbey tries to refuse the Queen's annual gift of two Christmas trees but changes its mind when it is pointed out who the trees are from.
Oct 11: Regular members of Abbey congregation send petition to the Queen, requesting reinstatement of Dr Neary if he is cleared of gross misconduct. Signed by seven MPs including Mr Field.
Oct 18: *The Sunday Times* carries story that 800 beech and elm Abbey chairs used at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, are to be sold in America at £3,000 each and each supplied with a certificate of authenticity signed by the Dean.
Oct 21: Appeal hearing ends after sitting for 12 days. Both parties agree that judgment should be made public.
Dec 9: Judgment is published.

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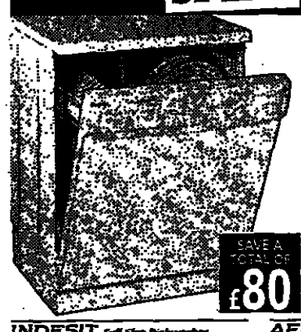
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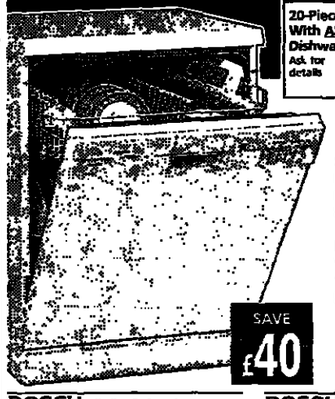
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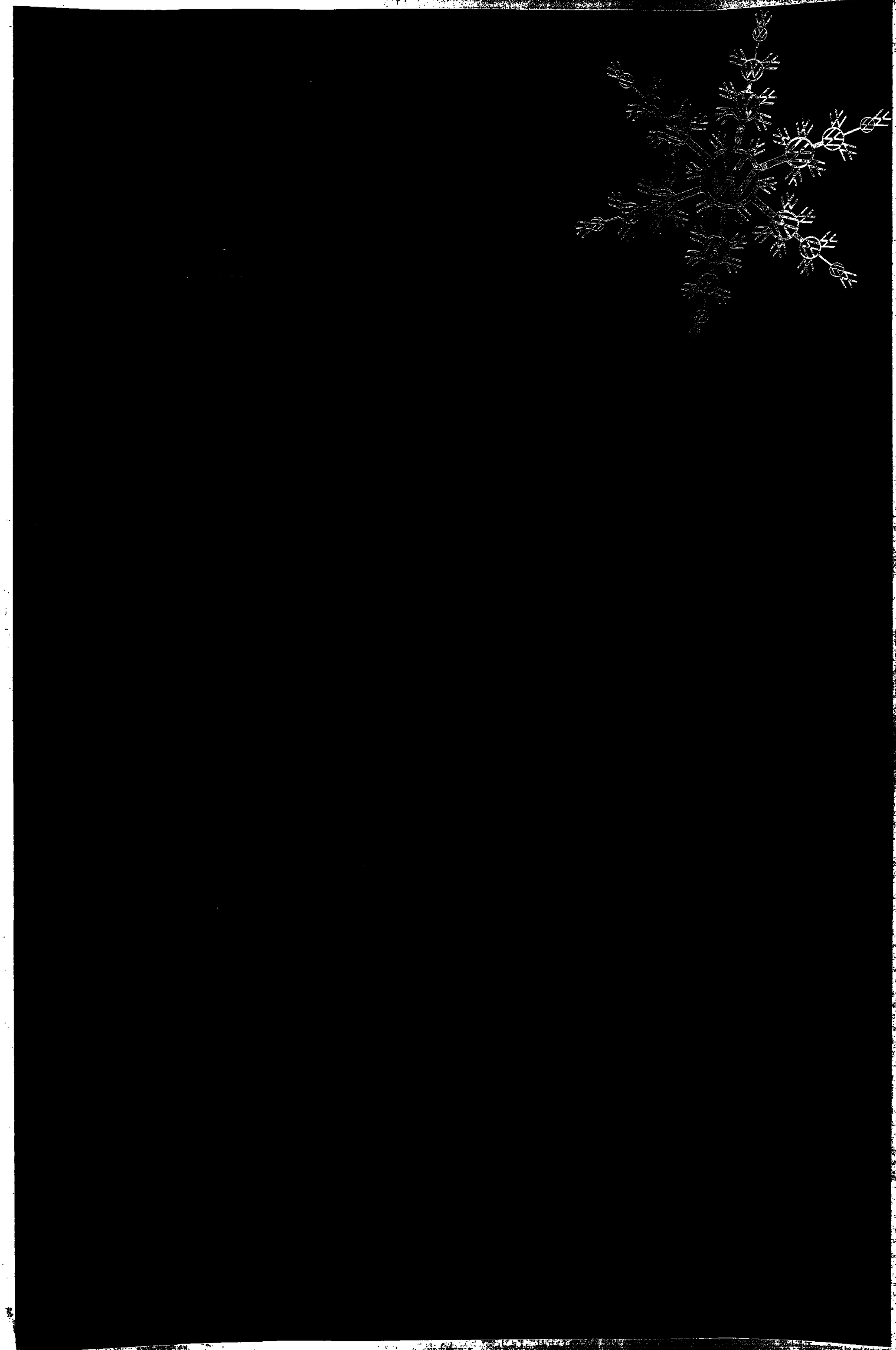
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Channel 4 news looks on the brighter side

Designers say colourful sets do not mean dumbing down, reports Carol Midgley

CHANNEL 4 unveiled a new look to its news yesterday, borrowing from its populist rival Channel 5 and putting Jon Snow's legs on display.

The newscaster's desk has been replaced with a modish low-slung plinth in bright orange as part of a multimillion-pound revamp designed to make *Channel 4 News* more accessible.

Simon Jago, the man behind the redesign, was the creator of Channel 5's brightly coloured newsroom, in which Kirsty Young addresses the camera standing or perched on the side of a desk.

But Channel 4 executives were quick to deny any copying of *5 News* or any hint of "dumbing down" to increase its audience of one million. "This is about being contemporary, but not faddish. It is serious, intelligent journalism which is our hallmark," said the editor, Jim Gray. "We are not copying Channel 5 in any way. They were the ones who changed their time to 7pm, the same time as us."

From next year the studios of *Channel 4 News*, generally regarded as television's most highbrow news programme, will be awash with colour: walls will be in shades of turquoise, aubergine, mustard and green. Some interviews will be conducted on a purple sofa.

At the unveiling, Snow, in trademark multicoloured tie plus purple socks, said: "This is certainly not dumbing down. It is about being more accessible. The old format was fine for its time but we have to move on."

The programme's agenda is being widened with greater coverage of social and cultural issues but executives insisted that there would be no diminution of its reporting of politics, foreign affairs, science and economics. The programme's first sports reporter is being appointed for a Saturday edition that executives say will be the only serious, hard-hitting news programme on that day.

New recruits also include two journalists from Channel 5: Mark Easton, who is the new home and social affairs editor, and Sarah Smith, daughter of the late Labour leader John Smith, who will cover Scottish affairs. Recently Tim Gardam was peached from his post as head of news at Channel 5 to be director of programmes at Channel 4.

The programme's revamp is designed to coincide with the channel's changing image. Next year the Channel 4 logo, used since the station's birth in 1982, will be redesigned, losing its distinctive circles.

The facelift, rumoured to have cost £3 million, also includes a video wall and a mobile production unit which will enable the programme to be broadcast entirely from an outside location if necessary. Some of the budget will also be diverted for independent producers to contribute to the programme. The first redesigned programme will be broadcast on January 4.

Mr Gray said: "The programme was getting slightly out of touch with Channel 4, which is as a channel is reinvigorating itself." Viewing patterns had changed.

He added: "I now believe we have in place the best team, the freshest look and the most innovative approach of any news programme in Britain."

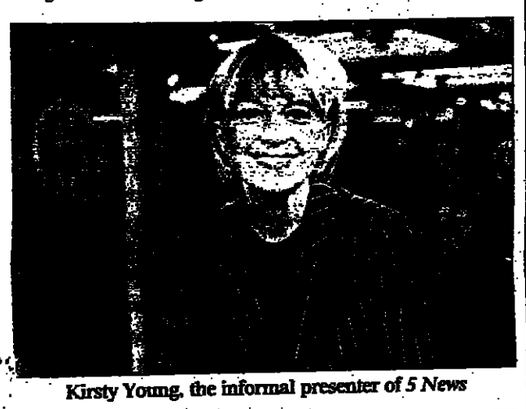
Channel 4 News and *5 News* are both made by ITN. Next year many news programmes are being revamped amid fierce competition to increase viewers.

The BBC is currently looking for fresh faces for a new-look *Six O'Clock News*, while ITV will next year launch its 6.30 *Early News* programme, presented by Trevor McDonald, after axeing the long-running *News at Ten*.



MICHAEL WALTER / PA

New brew: Jon Snow at the relaunch of *Channel 4 News*. Suggestions of "dumbing down" were fiercely denied



Kirsty Young, the informal presenter of *5 News*

Bugs in pants cut waste of space

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BACTERIA are to be used to digest cosmonauts' underwear in a move that could reduce waste on a spacecraft and provide a back-up fuel.

Russian researchers have launched a scheme to develop a "microbial disposal unit" to turn everything from plastics and organic wastes, such as cotton or paper, into methane.

To keep the build-up of rubbish and waste to a minimum, crews on the Mir space station wear underpants, made from cotton or paper, for a week.

The conventional way of disposing of waste on Mir is to put it into sealed containers until a Progress supply rocket docks. It returns to earth with the rubbish, which burns up on re-entry. Russian scientists are screening national and international bacteria collections for suitable strains. It is hoped to have the system ready for 2017, when Russia plans a manned mission to Mars. *New Scientist* reports.

Pesticides destroy partridge numbers

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of toxic chemicals sprayed on cereal crops in southern England has nearly trebled in the past 20 years, scientists said yesterday.

The rise, which means that between 80 and 100 per cent of arable fields are regularly coated in up to 36 herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, mirrors the sharp decline in many species of birds.

Researchers who have been monitoring 62 square kilometres of farmland on the South Downs found a 60 per cent slump in grey partridge since 1970. Just over ten pairs per square kilometre were found in the area in 1970. By 1995 the level had fallen to nearly three pairs. A large decline in skylark and corn bunting has also been seen.

The researchers, who say that the area is typical, have found that the array of chemicals being used has led to a 50 per cent fall in the caterpillar and grub stages of *moth*, butterfly, sawfly and insects: vital food for many farmland birds.

Julie Ewald, of the Game Conservancy in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, one of the researchers involved, said that — as many chemical firms claim — the quantity or weight of chemicals being put on the land was falling. But she said that the number of chemicals had climbed as new compounds have come on the market and farms have abandoned traditional crop rotation.

Dr Ewald said among the 12 farms studied one still rotated crops and so needed to use less fungicide. The farmer also used less insecticide and herbicide. On this farm the number of grey partridges had climbed from seven pairs per square kilometre to eight in 1998. "And this farmer still makes a profit," Dr Ewald said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Twelfth patient exhumed

Police have exhumed the body of a 12th patient of GP Harold Shipman, 52, from a cemetery in Hyde, near Manchester. Detectives removed the body of Elizabeth Mellor, who was 75 when she died in November 1994, for examination by forensic scientists. Mrs Mellor, from Godley, near Hyde, is the third person to be exhumed this week. Dr Shipman has been charged with killing eight patients, and is being held in custody on remand.

Sea surgery fails

A fisherman who received serious head injuries while at sea died despite fellow crew performing a tracheotomy guided by doctors via a radio link. The 21-year-old man from Torquay was declared dead after being flown to hospital.

Flu closes school

Grappenhall Hall, a special school in Warrington, has been closed temporarily after three quarters of its 186 staff and pupils contracted flu-like symptoms. It is hoped to reopen the school before the end of term.

Airgun charge

A boy aged 16 was charged with firing an airgun at several staff and children at Hollers Primary School in Hinckley, Leicestershire, causing minor injuries. He is expected to appear before Hinckley Youth Court on January 7.

5,000-mile 999

A 999 call in Chippenham, Wiltshire, saved the life of a woman in New York who had taken a drugs overdose. A worried friend in Britain telephoned the Wiltshire Ambulance Service, which alerted police in the United States.



Names game makes some MPs a hostage to misfortune

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Visitors to the Commons yesterday morning were greeted by this message on the television monitors which describe proceedings in the chamber: "ROAD TRAFFIC REDUCTIONS — Mr Brake." A pity the former MP, Keith Speed, is no longer in the House.

The last election yielded the best crop of MPs' names in decades. We await a debate on organ transplants, graced by David Kidney; a contribution from Bill Cash and David Borrow to the debate on national debt; exchanges on telecommunications led by Dr Cable; calls for emergency debate on rising sea-levels by Julia Drown; or an early day motion on the funeral industry from Dominic Grieve.

So far as we know, neither of the Eagles (Angela and Maria) have ever spoken in debates on bird-life, David Lepper has never asked about contagious diseases, and neither David Lock nor Robert Key have teamed up to support Community Watch.

Ken Purchase and Stephen Pound have not set themselves up as experts on retailing, and neither Marion Roe, Barbara Roche nor Alex Salmond think there is anything funny about their interventions on fishing policy. As Agriculture Minister, Gillian Shephard ignored the laughter when she spoke on sheep. And all the Taylors (there are eight) are wary of debates on textiles or the British fashion industry.

But Joan Humble (Lab, Blackpool N & Fleetwood) has never been heard to boast.

Perhaps she should have a word with the Prime Minister. When Tony Blair rides high, as yesterday, we can bring out the plumed horses. Maybe Millbank Tower should inquire what new Labour focus groups think of hubris — but they would probably suppose it was a brand of garden compost.

Starting on his back foot on tax harmonisation, Mr Blair won Prime Minister's Questions — game, set and match. But then his adversary was injured. Watching William Hague marching forward and ploughing hopelessly in and (earlier) watching Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, summoning the courage to turn up at Welsh Questions and put his own inquiry, we were reminded of two players who had taken a dreadful tumble but sprung back up and piled back in, determined, nobody should say they were frit.

Nobody offered Blair any serious resistance, and it was interesting to see the effect this had on him. He got cockier, faster than a fox in a hen-coop. He told Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Louth & Horncastle), who had accused him of wanting to destroy the unity of the United Kingdom, that his aim was otherwise: to destroy the Conservative Party. At Mr Hague's exasperated attempts to pin him down over tax harmonisation Blair just turned to Madam Speaker and laughed: "I don't think he's getting very far."

Labour backbenchers bowled him patsy questions for which he had already been primed — and instead of looking pleased, the Prime Minister simply looked bored: a mediaeval king, contemptuous of the very sycophancy he has required. When Dafydd Wigley, the Welsh nationalist leader, complained about what he saw as Blair's determination to control the Welsh assembly, Blair regretted that the Welsh MP was "still complaining". It would be nice, once in a while, "to have a bit of gratitude". MPs sucked their teeth.

But what can stop him? Not Paddy Ashdown, who has never called for Geoffrey Robinson's resignation in the Commons before but now senses that Downing Street's protection from the beleaguered Paymaster General has been withdrawn. He prodded Blair, to test this. The Battle of Robinson being effectively over, Captain Ashdown has come down from the hills to bayonet the wounded.

There is no crisis, declares Trimble

ARIN BORGEN/REUTER



David Trimble and John Hume at the Nobel Institute in Oslo yesterday against a backdrop of peace laureates

DAVID TRIMBLE brushed aside the problems besetting the Northern Ireland peace process as he and John Hume prepared to receive the Nobel Peace prize in Oslo today.

"There is no crisis," the First Minister declared as he dismissed the disputes preventing agreement on the new cross-border bodies and the Province's new executive as "minor glitches". "There will be problems ahead, and February's scheduled transfer of powers from London to Belfast could be delayed a month or so, but Northern Ireland had crossed the watershed with the Good Friday peace accord," he said.

Mr Trimble and Mr Hume were addressing a press conference at the Nobel Institute after flying from another prize-giving ceremony in Washington where President Clinton had urged Mr Trimble and Gerry Adams to bury their differences.

Peace process delays dismissed on eve of Nobel awards, write **Martin Fletcher** and **Damian Whitworth**

In separate meetings with the two, Bill Clinton singled out the importance of making progress on decommissioning weapons. Speaking at a ceremony to honour himself and eight of the architects of the Good Friday agreement, Mr Clinton implored the two sides to push on. He said: "I hope the parties will move quickly to resolve their remaining differences. Not only the letter but the spirit of the Good Friday accord must prevail. We all have to decide we can't shoot our way out of our differences and our difficulties."

Before the presentation of the Averell Harriman Democracy Award by the National Democratic Institute, Mr Clinton had a 30-minute meeting at the White House with Mr Trimble and then lingered past midnight talking to Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein leader.

The institute also honoured John Alderdice of the Alliance Party, David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, Monica McWilliams of the Northern Ireland Women's coalition, Gary McMichael of the Ulster Democratic Party and Malachi Curran of the Northern Ireland Labour Party. As Mr Trimble and Mr Hume arrived in Oslo, Tony Blair met Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein and Seamus Mallon, the deputy First Minister, at Downing Street. Mr Mallon had abandoned plans to attend the Nobel ceremony because of the deadlock at home.

The Prime Minister and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, will have talks at the European summit in Vienna this weekend. It is possible they will return to Belfast next week. Downing Street said it was essential to "keep the pressure on". Unless an agreement on the new institutions can be reached before Christmas, implementation of the accord will be seriously delayed. Mr Trimble rejected suggestions that he should be in Belfast instead of collecting peace prizes abroad. "It's part of the strength of the peace process that it doesn't depend on a few individuals," he said. The two men will join a list of peace laureates that includes Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela, Lech Walesa, Martin Luther King, the Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa.

Army 'had plan to do in TA'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

ONE of the Army's most senior commanders was accused by an MP yesterday of being part of a cabal of other regular officers who decided "to do in" the Territorial Army.

General Sir Michael Walker, the Commander-in-Chief Land Command who was responsible for restructuring the TA after ministers announced a 30 per cent cut in numbers, faced hostile questioning by MPs on the Defence Select Committee. Julian Brazier, the Conservative MP for Canterbury, who has been a TA officer for 13 years, said: "There is a picture emerging of a group of regular army officers who got together to plan this and did not consult the TA until it was rubber-stamped."

Mr Brazier, the son of a regular officer, accused General Walker of "cooking up" the restructuring and failing to consult with those most affected until it was too late. But Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, denied that there had been insufficient consultation before the TA announcement last month. However, he added: "It's impossible to talk to everyone in the country."

The Government's decision to cut the TA from an establishment figure of 59,000 to just over 41,000 was criticised by most members of the committee. Bruce George, the Labour chairman, said that no one had yet managed to convince the committee of the wisdom of the decision.

General Walker said that the decision had been based on operational grounds alone. The general, who was the author of the leaked letter which ordered TA officers not to engage in "idle chat" about the restructuring plans until they were announced by the Government, said Mr Brazier was wrong to accuse him of failing to consult the TA.

Backtrack on right to roam

THE Government yesterday signalled a retreat from plans for a clear-cut legal right to roam over millions of acres of countryside. (Michael Hornsby writes).

Detailed proposals had been promised this year but a watered-down scheme is now expected to be unveiled early in 1999. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, told a conference in London that the Government did not need to rely solely on statutory measures to secure public access to mountain, moorland and heath. He said he was looking at a flexible approach that would involve both voluntary and legally-binding arrangements, but he did not spell out what this would mean.

The Ramblers Association said it would be totally against voluntary arrangements. "At the current rate of progress, it would be take 1000 years for voluntary deals to open up all the land."

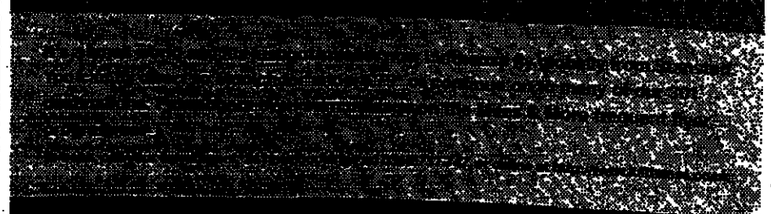
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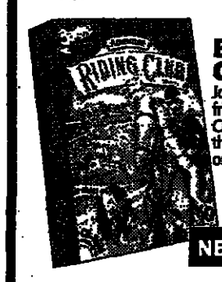
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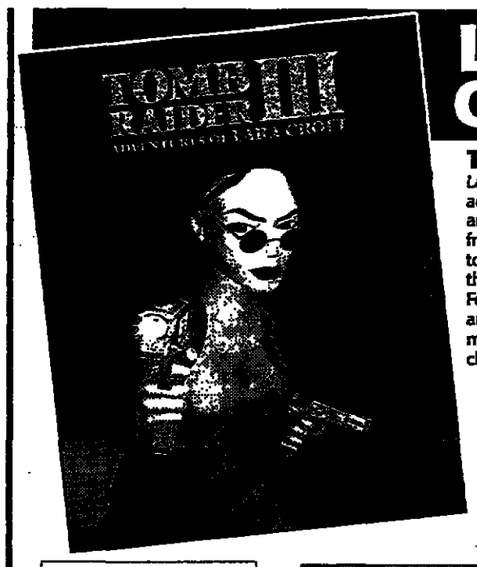


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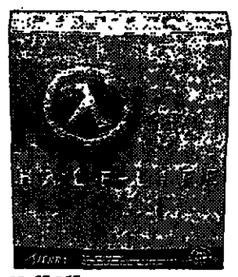
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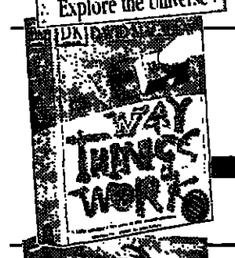
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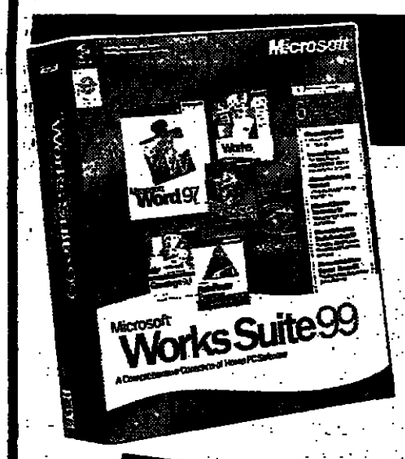
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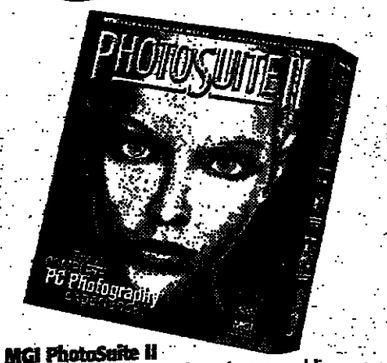
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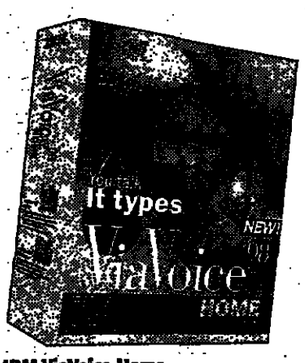
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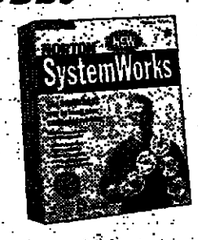


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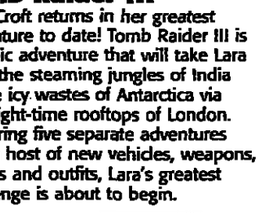
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'Tree-sit' enters year two

Los Angeles: A year ago today a young woman with a fear of heights climbed into an ancient redwood tree as part of a protest over plans to cut it down (Giles Whittell writes). She is still there and cannot remember the sensation of walking.

Julia Hill's "tree-sit" has made her a poster-child of the American environmental movement and a thorn in the side of California's biggest lumber company.

Speaking by a solar-powered mobile phone, Ms Hill said she would stay put until her 1,000-year-old adopted home and fellow ancient redwoods in the Headwaters Forest are no longer threatened.

The Pacific Lumber Company, which operates the world's largest redwood mill a few miles away, regards her as an irritating trespasser. It has stopped taking direct action to remove Ms Hill — she endured a ten-day siege earlier this year — but still plans to fell it when she gives up.

Blackout city has day off in a jam

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

SAN FRANCISCO was recovering yesterday from a massive rush-hour blackout that stranded thousands of people, left nearly a million without light and offered a grim preview of the chaos many anticipate in the first few seconds of the next millennium.

One careless error by an electric company maintenance crew caused a power surge that shut down 25 substations in the San Francisco Bay area at 8.17am on Tuesday, as the entire region was on its way to work. Lifts, trains, trams and buses, telephones and computer systems promptly ground to a halt.

Power to America's densest urban area outside Manhattan, normally delivered by high-voltage lines from south of the city, stayed off for eight hours in places.

As the blackout dragged on, an exasperated mayor declared a state of emergency and bond dealers left the Pacific stock exchange to down Bloody Marys in a hotel bar.

A 73-year-old woman was killed by a lorry at a junction whose traffic lights were out, but for most the power cut became an exercise in coping. As hospitals cancelled all non-emergency surgical work, traffic was stalled for hours in sepulchral mist on the Golden Gate Bridge, and thousands of commuters were led along darkened tunnels from stranded underground trains.

On the ground, the city's main streets were reduced to hopeless gridlock as frustrated office workers sought what became the gold dust of the moment – a hot cup of coffee. Lifts were stuck between floors in dozens of skyscrapers, including 22 city-run high-rise retirement homes. Teams of volunteers were sent from City Hall to help the elderly downstairs once the Fire Department had winched their lifts to safety.

Higher still, 18 flights into San Francisco International Airport had to land elsewhere as air traffic controllers switched to back-up power supplies. Forty other flights were delayed.

The chaos began when a maintenance crew from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, in the process of bringing a substation back on line in San Mateo, 20 miles south of the city centre, forgot to remove a pipe they had been using as a temporary grounding device. The result was a power surge that triggered emergency shut-off switches throughout the San Francisco peninsula. The trip switches saved the power grid from long-term damage and may have prevented the whole of northern California being plunged into darkness, an otherwise penitent company spokesman said. Experts fear the "Year 2000 bug" may cause similar mass shutdowns. Mayor Willie Brown, who faces a tough re-election, was not impressed. He praised citizens' patience, however, and granted free rides home as public transport came back to life.

A leading candidate for hero of the day was Phil Bronstein, executive editor of the *San Francisco Examiner* and husband of the actress Sharon Stone. He and his staff produced a full paper using battery-powered laptops and runners dashing through traffic with picture negatives to a printing plant across the bay.

"It was a combination of 21st-century technology with 19th-century kind of chewing gum, glue and spit," he said, doubling his print run.

LAURA A ODA / AFP



Commuter cars, like those on Bay Bridge, above, were gridlocked for hours in the streets of San Francisco by the crippling, rush-hour blackout

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL



One of the sites in Honduras that could benefit from a bridge provided with funds by the *Times* appeal

An opportunity to construct a new Honduras

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AFTER a whirlwind of news about Hurricane Mitch, the hard task of rebuilding the destroyed economies of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala is beginning.

As part of its Christmas charity appeal, *The Times*, with Oxfam and the British bridge firm Mabey and Johnson, is asking its readers to make their own contribution to the long-term Honduran relief effort by funding the building of a bridge in one of the worst-hit disaster zones.

Mabey and Johnson has agreed to ship one its "rapid reaction" Bailey bridges to Honduras from its factory near Chepstow, Gwent, at cost price, as well as providing all the site preparation and construction costs free.

When I set off for the disaster zone early last month, I wasn't sure what I would find. The stories I wrote after Mitch struck only told a small part of what I saw. There were also scenes that could hardly be described satisfactorily in words.

But in the midddle of all the mud and hardship that Mitch dumped on the long-suffering poor of Central America there is a surprising sense of hope. President Flores of Honduras put it best: "We do not see this as a tragedy," he said. "We see this as an opportunity."

Ten years ago, when I was living in Honduras, the country was widely regarded by foreigners — myself included — as a textbook basket case. Its dysfunctional Government was rife with corruption. It was a democracy only in name. Although there was a civilian Government, it was the military who called the shots.

Thankfully, that is not the Honduras of today. It is still one of the poorest and most socially unequal countries in the hemisphere, but before Mitch it was on the way up. Among other reforms over the past five years, the military had been stripped of power, a new civilian police set up, institutions created to protect the rights of women, consumers, indigenous peoples and the environment.

For the first time the education budget had exceeded the military's. New schools, hospitals, roads and bridges serving poor rural areas had been built. Corruption, though not eradicated, was being tackled. The real tragedy would be if Mitch were allowed to halt that process.

The other day I heard Tegucigalpa's dynamic Roman Catholic archbishop, Mgr Oscar Andrés Rodriguez, warn his congregation that Mitch was a lesson for the country's past sins.

"It's our punishment for destroying all our forests and removing all the tree cover on the hills," he said, referring to the illegal logging and lack of environmental protection that have made large parts of the country vulnerable to soil erosion and landslides. "Let's not reconstruct the old Honduras. Let us build something new, a different country," he said.

That is the challenge facing Honduras and the rest of Central America today. They deserve a helping hand.

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Fossil deals casino a bad hand

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

BULLDOZERS and gambling chips are threatening the South African site where a 3.5 million-year-old fossilised skeleton of a hominid — the ape-like ancestor of modern man — was found by Dr Ron Clarke.

Plans have been approved by Gauteng provincial authorities for a casino and hotel complex to be built in the Sterkfontein Valley, ten miles west of Johannesburg, where excavations into limestone caves during the past 60 years have yielded more than 1,000 specimens of hominids.

Sterkfontein casino is being challenged by other contenders for gambling licences and the find could stall the project, although it is due to open within 18 months. The casino, to be run by Kairo, the British casino group, for a local consortium, will have 750 slot machines and 50 gaming tables with an adjoining sports and recreation centre. A 140-room hotel will be built next door.

In a country where tax avoidance is a national sport, the Government is anticipating substantial income from casinos that, under apartheid rule and the eye of the Calvinistic Dutch Reformed Church, were confined to the independent black Bantustan homelands. They will also create thousands of jobs.

An application has been made for the Sterkfontein valley to be declared South Africa's first World Heritage site. As well as the Sterkfontein cave, there are ten other fossil caves extending in a line for about ten miles that are being investigated by Witwatersrand University.

The site for the casino and hotel complex is less than a mile from the main fossil-bearing area.



Part of the *Australopithecus* skeleton embedded in the wall of the Silberberg Grotto in the Sterkfontein Valley, northwest of Johannesburg; right, the skull

British scientist discovers 4ft 'missing link'

Skeleton is clue to pan-African origins, writes **Sam Kiley** in Johannesburg

SENSATIONAL details of the oldest complete skeleton of a hominid ever found were disclosed yesterday by Ron Clarke, a British scientist. They will give paleoanthropologists priceless clues about the "missing link" between early man and his ape ancestors.

Dr Clarke, 54, based at the University of Witwatersrand, found the skeleton embedded in rock in the Silberberg Grotto in the Sterkfontein valley on the northwestern edge of Johannesburg, thousands of miles from where the famous skeleton of "Lucy" was discovered by Don Johanson more than 20 years ago in the Rift Valley in Ethiopia.

The geographical spread of an *Australopithecus* (southern ape) species dispelled theories that the Rift Valley was the "crucible of mankind", said Professor Phillip Tobias, head of the university's paleoanthropology department.

"I have always said that the evolution of mankind was pan-African. This, and recent findings in Chad, prove this beyond any doubt. It was neither an east African nor a southern African phenomenon," said Professor Tobias. The skeleton of an adult about 4ft tall includes sections of an arm, legs, a complete skull, and feet — which have never been found on remains of such antiquity.

More is likely to be revealed as the excavation continues. Dated by a team from "Wits" and the University of Liverpool using shifts in the Earth's polarity over millions of years, as well as analysis of the rocks around the skeleton, the remains are estimated to be between 3.22 and 3.58 million years old.

So far the left side of its face has been painstakingly prised from surrounding rock. It shows a creature with a small cranium, about the size of a tennis ball, pronounced cheek bones, and healthy teeth. The presence of wisdom teeth indicate it is an adult.

Lucy, dated at about 3.2 million years, is a member of the *Australopithecus afarensis* species. Later fragments of the same creature have been discovered by Meave Leakey in Tanzania dating back 3.75 million years. But they have never been found with feet or hands intact because these are usually eaten by predators.

Still embedded in rock in the grotto, Dr Clarke's find has not yet been excavated to determine whether it comes from the *afarensis* family, whether it is an ancient member of the *africanus* branch, which dates back to 3.2 million years, or is from another species entirely.

"These are the very exciting questions we hope to answer over the next year or so," said Dr Clarke. He said that from the foot remains it was clear that the creature walked upright, but that it also had prehensile "thumbs" — indicating that it still spent time in trees foraging for food or seeking shelter from predators. "This is clearly a creature who had sprung loose from the trees but still spent a lot of time in the trees, like a chimpanzee," said Professor Tobias. Dr Clarke said that there were "many missing links" in the puzzle over human evolution.

"But this find brings us a little closer to understanding when and why the human and ape ancestors parted company and evolved in separate directions. It brings us closer to answering one of anthropology's ultimate questions," he said.

The "chimpanzee-like" feet of the skeleton, which has not been named because Dr Clarke is waiting to discover its sex, could provide vital clues to the evolution of ape to man, the scientists said. Dr Leakey, director of the Nairobi Museum's Department of Palaeontology, was "extremely excited" by the breakthrough.

Paleoanthropology has caused many rows between scientists in the past. Dr Leakey's husband Richard and Dr Johanson have been locked in a debate about the shape and number of branches of the tree of human evolution for years.

Already bone hunters are disputing whether the "Tiny Foot", the first parts of the skeleton discovered by Dr Clarke in 1992, indicate as much of a "tree life" for the ape-like creature as he suggests.

"The arguments are often as much about testosterone as science," said Dr Maeve Leakey. "This discovery, if the dating is proved accurate, is very exciting indeed. It is rare to have a skull associated with a skeleton. The shape of the skeleton could go some way to resolving the controversy surrounding the foot."

"If this turns out to be another species from *afarensis* or from *africanus*, which is possible given the geographical spread, or another species altogether, then we will know that we have a more diverse and complex family tree."

Carol Ward, a fossil hunter based in the US who has worked on most of the African findings was woken with the news of the latest breakthrough by *The Times*. "This is incredible," she said. "Wow, a whole skeleton?"

JUDA NGWENYA / REUTERS



Dr Ron Clarke holding bones yesterday that are three and a half million years old

Bones in box led to grotto remains

BY SAM KILEY

THE CHANCE discovery of a shoe box at the bottom of a cupboard at the University of the Witwatersrand was the vital clue that helped Ron Clarke to make one of the most important fossil finds ever.

Described by his boss, Phillip Tobias, as a sleuth to rival Holmes and Poirot, Dr Clarke's first hint at a find came with the discovery of tiny fragments of hominid foot bone in another box, stored on site just outside Johannesburg, labelled as "bovid bones" in 1992.

Convinced that the Silberberg Grotto in the Sterkfontein cave complex contained more such finds, which he christened "tiny foot" — they had both ape-like and humanoid characteristics — he refused to give up his hunt.

"Last year I looked in a cupboard in the medical school where I found a shoe box labelled 'monkey fossils'. Inside I spotted a telltale white bone which fitted into the tiny foot I had found in the storeroom at Sterkfontein," said Dr Clarke. Fitted together, the fragments made up significant portions of a left and right foot, ankle and tibia.

In July last year he gave a cast of the right tibia to his two assistants, Nkwane Molefe and Stephen Motsumi, and asked them to try to find the rest of the bone in the Silberberg Grotto.

After two days, Mr Motsumi spotted a white glint in his torch light. The fragment had been fixed in the wall 3.4 million years ago.

"I couldn't believe it. We put the cast up against the fragment in the wall, and it fitted perfectly," said Mr Motsumi.

By September this year, after much chipping away at the limestone, Dr Clarke had "the whole skull, a radial bone, and the most complete skeleton of this period I had ever seen", he said.

"This is without doubt the most dramatic discovery ever made . . . it is now up to us to find out what sort of hominid this is, its sex, and to give it a name," he added.

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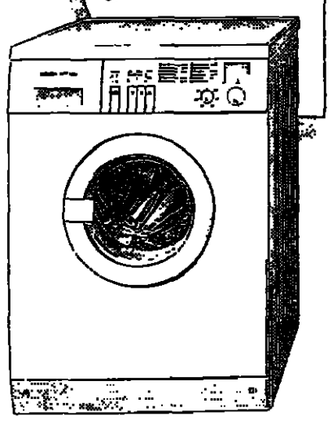
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HEALTH STATISTICS: government figures begin to compare how local hospital trusts are serving patients

Clinical efficiency is new yardstick

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE latest set of performance indicators for the National Health Service mark a transition between the Conservative style dominated by stopwatch efficiency and a new Labour style in which clinical efficiency will be the most important factor.

Out goes the meaningless data showing the percentage of patients seen within five minutes of being taken into casualty. In come statistics showing the proportion of women dying of breast cancer in each health authority area. This is the first of a series of clinical indicators designed to show how a local hospital compares with others at curing combating disease.

The five-minute rule in casualty led to the creation of the "hello nurse", whose job was to greet each patient and record details when they came in. The patient might then wait for hours to be seen.

The breast cancer figures are a foretaste of the kind of clinical information the Government says that it wants to give the public.

Although they show the proportion who die from the disease in each health authority area they give no indication of whether the mortality rate is due to the quality of treatment or to the fact that the population in that area is more susceptible to the disease. Breast cancer is more common among more affluent classes but this is probably because of the fact that wealthier people live longer and the incidence of cancer increases with age.

More worrying is that the number of women screened for breast cancer has dropped 1 per cent to 66 per cent, equivalent to around 70,000 fewer women. The national target for breast screening is 70 per cent — a figure inexplicably left out of the tables.

Another national target not being met is the 95 per cent coverage desired for immunisation by the triple vaccination for measles, mumps and rubella. The level has remained at 91 per cent and is likely to drop next year since these figures were collected before the February scare that the vaccine might be responsible for some cases of autism.

Central to both the old and new sets of figures, however, is the subject on which the Government and Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, have so much political credibility at stake — the length of waiting lists to see a specialist and to have an operation.

The tables below cover this for the year up to the end of March this year, before the Government's waiting list initiative began in earnest.

They show that during that year the average proportion of patients seen by a consultant in any department except casualty within 13 weeks of a referral by a GP fell from 83 per cent to 81 per cent and the proportion of those who had to wait up to a year for an operation almost doubled from 3 to 5 per cent.

The queues for orthopaedic and ophthalmic operations have grown the most, with the numbers waiting more than 12 months running at nearly three times the national average in percentage terms. Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that the figures showed that waiting times in London were showing an alarmingly fast increase. "The waiting list for the waiting list is now at a record level," she said. "Frank Dobson must admit that Labour's pledge to cut waiting lists is causing great problems because he has been forced to divert resources to cutting them."

Evan Harris, a Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said the published figures show conclusively that patients waited longer for operations under Labour.

☐ *Plus and minus signs in the tables below indicate a "significant" change from the previous year*



Frank Dobson: lists are crucial indicator for him

West Midlands

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	96	100	61-	91-
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust	80+	98+	72	99
Birmingham Heartlands & Solihull NHS Trust	92	99	70-	99
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust	100	100	76-	100
Black Country Mental Health NHS Trust	98	100	100	100
City Hospital NHS Trust	85	98	65	97
Coventry Healthcare NHS Trust	98	100	-	-
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	85	98	78	99
Dudley Priority Health NHS Trust	95	100	-	-
First Community Health NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Foundation NHS Trust	92+	99	-	-
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	78-	97	70	97
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	89	98	71	97
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	88	99	63	95
Herefordshire Community Health NHS Trust	97+	100	-	-
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	92	100	66-	98
Mid-Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	73-	87-	71	97
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	91-	93-	100	100
North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	69	89	75	98
North Warwickshire NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
Northern Birmingham Community Health (NHS) Tst	-	-	-	-
Northern Birmingham Mental Health NHS Trust	76-	89-	-	-
Premier Health NHS Trust	80	94	65-	99
Princess Royal Hospital NHS Trust	70	94	71-	99
Queen's Hospital, Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	85	98	68-	98
Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Hospital NHS Trust	70	95	50	91
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	89	100	61	96
Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals NHS Trust	82+	98	64+	96
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	71	96	62-	99
Rugby NHS Trust	81	96	69	99
Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust	75	91	72	97
Shropshire's Community Health Service NHS Trust	72-	97	71	100
Shropshire's Mental Health NHS Trust	90	99	-	-
Solihull Healthcare NHS Trust	94	99	-	-
South Birmingham Mental Health NHS Trust	99+	100	-	-
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	81	100	67-	99
South Warwickshire Health Care NHS Trust	87-	97	-	-
South Warwickshire Mental Health Servs NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
Southern Birmingham Community Health NHS Trust	78-	92-	85+	100
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust	92	100	79-	99
Walsall Community Health NHS Trust	97	99	-	-
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	76-	91-	61-	99
Walsgrave Hospitals NHS Trust	80	94	77-	99
Wolverhampton Health Care NHS Trust	95	100	-	-
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	94	99	68	96
Worcestershire Community Healthcare NHS Trust	79+	97	66-	98

BREAST CANCER MORTALITY RATIO

Bedfordshire	104	Herefordshire	112
Berkshire	105	N Staffordshire	111
Buckinghamshire	101	Sandwell	109
Cambridge & Huntingdon	96	Shropshire	96
East Norfolk	99	Solihull	118
North West Anglia	105	S Staffordshire	110
Northamptonshire	114	Walsall	118
Oxfordshire	92	Warwickshire	103
Suffolk	105	Wolverhampton	108
Barking & Havering	104	Worcestershire	100
Barnet	92	Bury & Rochdale	105
Brent & Harrow	105	East Lancashire	98
Camden & Islington	94	Liverpool	98
Ealing/Hammersmith/Hounslow	91	Manchester	99
East & North Hertfordshire	104	Morecambe Bay	82
East London & The City	102	North Cheshire	98
Enfield & Haringey	95	North West Lancashire	100
Hillingdon	96	St Helens & Knowsley	97
Kensington/Chelsea/Westminster	90	Salford & Trafford	97
North Essex	112	Sefton	98
Redbridge/Waltham Forest	92	South Cheshire	96
South Essex	104	South Lancashire	103
W Hertfordshire	102	Stockport	102
Bexley & Greenwich	90	West Pennine	100
Bromley	91	Wigan & Bolton	91
Croydon	105	Wirral	101
East Kent	104	Bradford	94
East Surrey	96	Calderdale & Kirklees	92
E Sussex/Brighton/Hove	113	County Durham	98
Kensington & Richmond	108	East Riding	104
Lambeth/Southwark/Lewisham	95	Gateshead & S Tyneside	92
Merton/Sutton/Wandsworth	98	Leeds	88
West Kent	93	Newcastle & North Tyneside	105
West Surrey	100	North Cumbria	98
West Sussex	95	North Yorkshire	87
Avon	90	Northumberland	110
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	104	Sunderland	85
Dorset	98	Tees	99
Gloucestershire	106	Wakefield	106
Isle of Wight	81	Barnsley	118
North & East Devon	97	Doncaster	112
North & Mid Hampshire	96	Leicestershire	108
Portsmouth/SE Hampshire	93	Lincolnshire	105
Somerset	102	North Derbyshire	108
South & West Devon	108	North Nottinghamshire	105
Southampton & SW Hampshire	98	Nottingham	118
Wiltshire	105	Rotherham	112
Birmingham	97	Sheffield	106
Coventry	96	South Humber	107
Dudley	103	Southern Derbyshire	120

+ [illegible] national average

Northern and Yorkshire

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Airedale NHS Trust	82	97	65	[illegible]
Bishop Auckland Hospitals NHS Trust	91	100	82	[illegible]
Bradford Community Health NHS Trust	76-	95	-	-
Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust	80	94	69	[illegible]
Calderdale Healthcare NHS Trust	81	97	75	[illegible]
Carlisle Hospitals NHS Trust	82-	96	54-	[illegible]
Cheviot & Wansbeck NHS Trust	75-	100	73	[illegible]
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Trust	71-	98	73	[illegible]
Community Health Care: North Durham NHS Trust	86	91	-	-
Darlington Memorial Hospital NHS Trust	84	99	59-	99
Dewsbury Healthcare NHS Trust	82-	93-	59-	97
East Yorkshire Community Healthcare NHS Trust	89	99	100	[illegible]
East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	92	98	78+	96
Freeman Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	72	96	83	98
Gateshead Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	+	-
Gateshead Hospitals NHS Trust	94	100	61-	94
Harrogate Healthcare NHS Trust	90	97	77	99
Hartlepool & East Durham NHS Trust	79-	99	69	99
Huddersfield NHS Trust	80	97	69	[illegible]
Hull & Holderness Community Health NHS Trust	85	97	100	[illegible]
Leeds Comm. & Mental Health Services NHS Trust	89	98	100	[illegible]
Newcastle City Health NHS Trust	92	98	-	-
North Durham Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	81	95	68	95
North Lakeland Healthcare NHS Trust	89+	95-	-	-
North Tees Health NHS Trust	90-	95	70	99
North Tyneside Health Care NHS Trust	85	97	86	99
Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust	82	95	74-	93
Northgate & Prudhoe NHS Trust	+	+	91	100
Northumberland Community Health NHS Trust	-	-	-	-
Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust	95	98	-	-
Pinderfields & Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust	89	97	69	93
Priority Healthcare Wearside NHS Trust	84-	99	-	-
Royal Hull Hospitals NHS Trust	88-	97	71	92
Royal Victoria Infirmary & Assoc. Hospitals NHS Trust	80	96	81	98
St James's & Seacroft University Hospital NHS Trust	81	95	79	96
Scarborough & North East Yorks. H'care NHS Trust	82	99	79	98
South Durham NHS Trust	89	100	-	-
South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	74	92	74	97
South Tees Community & Mental Health NHS Trust	81-	100	-	-
South Tyneside Healthcare NHS Trust	87	98	72	91
United Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	85	93	68-	96
Wakefield & Pontefract Community Health NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
West Cumbria Health Care NHS Trust	87	97	61	93
York Health Services NHS Trust	76-	96	74	96

Anglia and Oxford

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Addenbrooke's NHS Trust	73	90	68	95
Allington NHS Trust	74	100	100	100
Aylesbury Vale Community Healthcare NHS Trust	97	99	93	100
Bedford & Shires Health & Care NHS Trust	86	98	-	-
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	80	93	58-	92
East Berkshire Community Health NHS Trust	81	100	54-	96
East Berkshire NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
East Suffolk Local Health Services NHS Trust	76	97	-	-
Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	89	99	76	100
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	77	95	64-	93
Horton General Hospital NHS Trust	84	96	69-	93-
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	79	94	1	70
James Paget Hospital NHS Trust	79-	98	1	71
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	76	92	63	95
King's Lynn & Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust	80	96+	64	94-
Lifespan Healthcare Cambridge NHS Trust	97+	100+	100	100
Luton & Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	73	91	76	96
Mid-Anglia Community Health NHS Trust	90	99	99	100
Milton Keynes Community NHS Trust	96	97	+	+
Milton Keynes General NHS Trust	73	90	65	92
Norfolk & Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	79	98	66	97
Norfolk Mental Health Care NHS Trust	92	95	-	-
North West Anglia Healthcare NHS Trust	76-	91	77+	98
Northampton Community Healthcare NHS Trust	89+	100	-	-
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	68-	90	72	95
Norwich Community Health Partnership NHS Trust	81-	100	-	-
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	82	95	43	91+
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	89	98	83	97
Oxfordshire Community Health NHS Trust	-	-	100	100
Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	80	98
Papworth Hospital NHS Trust	92-	99	61	96
Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust	79	91	62	95
Radcliffe Infirmary NHS Trust	74	96	60+	89-
Rockingham Forest NHS Trust	98	99	100	100
Royal Berkshire & Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	89	97	59	91
South Bedfordshire Community Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust	84	96	69	92
Stoke Mandeville Hospital NHS Trust	84	99	63	94
West Berkshire Priority Care Service NHS Trust	88	99	75+	100
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	77	97	61	94

Trent

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Barnsley Community & Priority Services NHS Trust	78-	98	-	-
Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Trust	71-	92	75	98
Bassetlaw Hospital & Community Services NHS Trust	89	98	65-	97
Central Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	85	99	79-	98
Central Sheffield University Hospitals NHS Trust	84	94	82	98
Chesterfield & N Derbyshire Royal Hosp NHS Trust	99	100	61	78-
Community Health Care Servs (N Derbys) NHS T	94	100	70-	100
Community Health Services NHS T - South Derbys	79	96	53-	99
Community Health Sheffield NHS Trust	89	100	86-	99
Derby City General Hospital NHS Trust	93	99	76	98
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	78-	93	56+	88
Doncaster Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	100	100
Doncaster Royal Infirmary & Montagu Hosp NHS T	87+	96	74	97
Fosse Health NHS Trust	83	97	89	100
Glenfield Hospital NHS Trust	86	96	76	97
Grantham & District Hospital NHS Trust	81-	98	64	92-
King's Mill Centre for Health Care Servs NHS Trust	67	94	57-	95
Leicester General Hospital NHS Trust	85	100	74+	99
Leicester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	80	96	66	95
Leicestershire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	95	99	-	-
Lincoln & Louth NHS Trust	80	96	59	85-
Lincoln District Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
Mulberry NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
North East Lincolnshire NHS Trust	80	94	68+	88
Northern General Hospital NHS Trust	77+	90	63	90
Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	88	97	75	97
Nottingham Community Health NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Nottingham Healthcare NHS Trust	88	92	-	-
Pilgrim Health NHS Trust	81	97	52-	81-
Queen's Med Centre Nottingham Univ Hosp NHS T	70-	87	68-	92
Rotherham General Hospitals NHS Trust	85	97	66	95
Rotherham Priority Health NHS Trust	87-	94	-	-
Scunthorpe & Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	92+	99	65-	90-
Scunthorpe Community Healthcare NHS Trust	92	100	+	+
Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust	84	92	80	98
South Lincs Comm & Mental Health Services NHS T	91-	98	-	-
Southern Derbyshire Mental Health NHS Trust	97	99	-	-
West Lindsey NHS Trust	89	100	70-	98
Weston Park Hospital NHS Trust	100	100	98	100

South and West

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Andover District Community Healthcare NHS Trust	86	100	92	100
Avalon Somerset NHS Trust	93	99	94	99
Bath & West Community NHS Trust	82	100	-	-
Bath Mental Healthcare NHS Trust	99	100	-	-
Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust	90	100	-	-
Dorset Community NHS Trust	89	100	82-	100
Dorset Health Care NHS Trust	100	100	90	100
East Gloucestershire NHS Trust	84	100	73	100
East Somerset NHS Trust	75-	95	74-	97
East Wiltshire Health Care NHS Trust	67-	72-	100	100
Exeter & District Comm. Health Service NHS Trust	84	98	94	100
Frenchay Healthcare NHS Trust	74	89	72	93-
Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust	78	96	74	100
Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust	81	100	53	87
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	83-	84	52	94
North Hampshire Loddon Community NHS Trust	98	100	100	100
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	87	97	66	94
Phoenix NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Plymouth Community Services NHS Trust	96	99	100	100
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	80-	94-	80	98
Poole Hospital NHS Trust	92	99	82	100
Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust	96+	99+	-	-
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	77-	97	63	98
Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hosps. NHS Trst	86-	100	69-	99
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	82	92	67-	96
Royal Devon & Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust	80	96+	67	95
Royal National Hosp. for Rheumatic Diseases NHS T	90	100	96	100
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Trust	89	99	+	+
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	92	100	47	91
Severn NHS Trust	83	99	98	100
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	84-	98	70	99
Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust	79	97	60-	96
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	80	95	56	90-
Southmead Health Services NHS Trust	86	94	66	94
Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust	72	87-	63+	90
Taunton & Somerset NHS Trust	80	96	61-	96
Trecare NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	73	92	70	95
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	88	99	76	100
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	71	93	72	96
Wiltshire Health Care NHS Trust	98	100	-	-
Winchester & Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	84-	97	74+	93

North Thames

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Barnet Healthcare NHS Trust	93-	100	-	-
Basildon & Thurrock General Hospitals NHS Trust	84-	99	67	97
BHB Community Health Care NHS Trust	83	100	-	-
Camden & Islington Comm. Health Servs. NHS Trust	98	100	+	+
Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	89	98	61-	97
Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	75	96	56-	87-
Chelsea & Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	90-	99	85-	100
City & Hackney Community Services NHS Trust	84-	94-	-	-
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	81	98	67+	94
East Hertfordshire NHS Trust	88	98	73	95
Enfield Community Care NHS Trust	97+	100	-	-
Essex & Herts Community NHS Trust	89	100	100	100
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	74	94	55	89
Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	66	86	61	86-
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	75-	95-	78	99
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	85-	99	85	96
Harefield Hospital NHS Trust	96	100	73-	99
Haringey Healthcare NHS Trust	96	100	+	+
Harrow & Hillingdon Healthcare NHS Trust	99	100	-	-
Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	68-	94	71-	96
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	78-	98	75	97
Homerton Hospital NHS Trust	74-	94	90	99
Hounslow & Spelthorne Comm. & Ment. Health NHS T	100	100	-	-
Mid-Essex Community & Mental Health NHS Trust	98	100	-	-
Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	83	98	64	89-
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust	74	97	62	99
Mount Vernon & Watford Hospitals NHS Trust	79-	95	70	91
New Possibilities NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Newham Community Health Services NHS Trust	96+	99	100	100
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	66-	91	91	99
North East Essex Mental Health NHS Trust	95	100	+	+
North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	82	97	69	99
North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	71	93	70	94
North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	91-	100	-	-
Northwick Park & St Mark's NHS Trust	71-	95	70	93
Parkside Health NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	80	99	62	88-
Redbridge Healthcare NHS Trust	84	98	70	87
Riverside Community Health Care NHS Trust	-	-	-	-
Riverside Mental Health NHS Trust	93	100	-	-
Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust	100	100	56	98
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	83	97	72	96
Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital NHS Trust	84	98	100	100
Royal Marsden NHS Trust	96+	99	100	100
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	66+	98+	47-	98
St Albans & Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust	84	98	72-	94-
St Mary's NHS Trust	86	98	79	97
Southend Community Care Services NHS Trust	92+	100	+	+
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	81-	99	61	93
Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust	86+	98	-	-
Thameside Community Healthcare NHS Trust	92	99	98	100
The Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	73	90	75	95
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	77	95	70-	94
Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust	93	99	97	100
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	76-	94	77	94
Wellhouse NHS Trust	86-	100	74	96
West Herts Community Health (NHS) Trust	88	94	-	-
West London Healthcare NHS Trust	90	97	-	-
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	76	95	78	97

South Thames

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Ashford Hospital NHS Trust	88	99	61	85-
Bethlem & Maudsley NHS Trust	82	92	83	98
Bournewood Community & Mental Health NHS Trust	99	100	-	-
Brighton Healthcare NHS Trust	72	94	66	89-
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	76	94	66	95
Canterbury & Thanet Comm Healthcare NHS Trust	96+	100	-	-
Chichester Priority Care Services NHS Trust	87	97	-	-
Crawley & Horsham NHS Trust	84	98	59+	84-
Croydon Community Health NHS Trust	-	-	-	-
Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust	85	96	50	82-
East Surrey Healthcare NHS Trust	94	100	62	92
East Surrey Priority Care NHS Trust	96	100	-	-
Eastbourne & County Healthcare NHS Trust	94	100	62	99
Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust	93+	100	71+	100
Epsom Healthcare NHS Trust	93	100	62+	95
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust	93+	99	72-	98
Greenwich Healthcare NHS Trust	80	98	73	97
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust	75-	97	71	94
Hastings & Rother NHS Trust	92+	98	60	99
Heathlands Mental Health NHS Trust	96	97	-	-
Invicta Community Care NHS Trust	95	99	-	-
Kent & Canterbury Hospitals NHS Trust	78	96	62-	97
Kent & Sussex Weald NHS Trust	92+	99	57	94
King's Healthcare NHS Trust	78-	98	77	93
Kingston & District Community NHS Trust	93	97	-	-
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	89	100	69	91
Lambeth Healthcare NHS Trust	89+	92+	+	+
Lewisham & Guy's Mental Health Trust	98	100	-	-
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	70-	94	63-	93-
Lifecare NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	89	98	63	95
Medway NHS Trust	68	89	59	89-
Merton & Sutton Community NHS Trust	69-	83-	-	-
Mid-Kent Healthcare NHS Trust	93+	99	63	90-
Mid-Sussex NHS Trust	72-	95	71	93-
North Downs Community Health NHS Trust	90	98	-	-
North Kent Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	100	100
Optimum Health Services NHS Trust	-	-	-	-
Oxleas NHS Trust	96	99	-	-
Pathfinder Mental Health Services NHS Trust	94	100	-	-
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	71	93	65-	94
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Trust	79	94	82-	94
Ravensbourne NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Richmond, Twickenham & Roehampton H'care NHS T	99	100	66-	94
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	86	94	63-	88-
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	79	97	73+	94-
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	83-	99	74	96
St Helier NHS Trust	100	100	72-	96-
St Peter's Hospital NHS Trust	86	99	67	87-
South Downs Health NHS Trust	89-	97	98	98
South Kent Community Healthcare NHS Trust	88	100	-	-
South Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	85	97	63	98
Surrey Heartlands NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
Teddington Memorial NHS Trust	-	-	-	-
Thameslink Healthcare Services NHS Trust	+	+	+	+
Thanet Healthcare NHS Trust	82	96	64-	95
Wandsworth Community Health NHS Trust	-	-	-	-
Worthing & Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	75	91	66	90-
Worthing Priority Care NHS Trust	99	100	-	-

North West

	Outpatient appointments (% of patients seen for first appointment within 13 and 26 weeks of referral by GP)		Admissions into hospital (% of patients admitted within 3 and 12 months of decision to admit)	
	13 weeks	26 weeks	3 months	12 months
Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	84	97	79	[illegible]
Blackburn, Hyndburn & Ribble Valley NHS Trust	82-	99	64	[illegible]
Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust	90	100	79	[illegible]
Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde Comm. Health Servs. NHS T	86	100	98+	[illegible]
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	81-	98	72	[illegible]
Burnley Healthcare NHS Trust	70-	96	71-	[illegible]
Bury Health Care NHS Trust	82-	96	88	[illegible]
Central Manchester Healthcare Trust	74	95	70-	[illegible]
Cheshire Community Healthcare NHS Trust	+	+	-	
Chester & Halton Community NHS Trust	81+	100	-	
Chorley & South Ribble NHS Trust	70-	94-	74-	[illegible]
Christie Hospital NHS Trust	87-	99	99	[illegible]
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust	100	100	99	[illegible]
Communicare NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Community Healthcare Bolton NHS Trust	90+	100	-	-
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Trust	83	97	60-	[illegible]
East Cheshire NHS Trust	86-	97	70-	[illegible]
Furness Hospitals NHS Trust	81-	94	67	[illegible]
Guild Community Healthcare NHS Trust	100	100	-	-
Halton General Hospital NHS Trust	84-	100	78-	[illegible]
Lancaster Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	91	100	79+	[illegible]
Lancaster Priority Services NHS Trust	100	100	98	[illegible]
Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Trust	92	100	90	[illegible]
Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	89	100	35-	[illegible]
Mancunian Community Health NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Mental Health Services of Salford NHS Trust	100	100	93+	[illegible]
Mid-Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	83-	96	73+	93
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	70-	94	80	95
North Mersey Community NHS Trust	78	96	63	[illegible]
Oldham NHS Trust	74-	95	64	92-
Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	78-	98	70	94
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	83	99	74	96
Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen Univ. Hosp. NHS Trust	65	88	68	94
Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust	85	100	67	100
St Helens & Knowsley Community Health NHS Trust	98	100	-	-
St Helens & Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	78	93	65	94
Salford Community Health Care NHS Trust	+	+	-	-
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	75	95	75	96
South Cumbria Comm. & Mental Health NHS Trust	70-	82-	-	-
South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	85	98	83	97
Southport & Formby Comm. Health Servs. NHS Trust	98	100	-	-
Southport & Formby NHS Trust	72	98	79	92
Stockport Acute Services NHS Trust	79	97	67	95
Stockport Healthcare NHS Trust	79-	100	90-	100
Tameside & Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	77-	98	73+	99
Tameside & Glossop Comm. & Priority Servs. NHS T	94	100	-	-
The Cardiothoracic Centre - Liverpool NHS Trust	100	100	78	98
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	82	95	73+	96
Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery NHS T	53	97	78	99
Warrington Community Healthcare NHS Trust	97	100	-	-
Warrington Hospital NHS Trust	97	100	70	96
West Lancashire NHS Trust	75	98	75+	94+
Westmorland Hospitals NHS Trust	89+	100	77	98
Wigan & Leigh Health Services NHS Trust	76	98	71+	96
Wirral & West Cheshire Community NHS Trust	92	100	100	100
Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	70	89	76	98
Wrightington Hospital NHS Trust	60-	91-	61	85

White House in battle to win over moderate Republicans

Clinton needs eight more votes to survive motion, writes **Ian Brodie** in Washington

A TORRENT of words continued to flow from the Clinton impeachment hearings in Washington yesterday but the real battle was waged behind the scenes for the support of moderate Republicans.

They are the key to defeating a motion to impeach Mr Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky affair which is expected to reach the House of Representatives next week.

They are in a tight spot. By party fiat, the moderates should vote with the Republican majority. The problem is that many represent constituencies carried by Mr Clinton in both his campaigns for the White House. For them to turn on him could imperil their own chances of re-election.

They have the misfortune, as *The Wall Street Journal* noted, of sitting smack on top of the great divide of American politics, with political power finely balanced between Democrats and Republicans.

They number between two and three dozen and yesterday a veteran among them, Amo Houghton, 72, announced his intention to vote against impeaching the President.

He would do so, he explained in *The New York Times*, because the need was to heal rather than further divide the United States. Mr Clinton's behaviour had been deplorable and if a factory manager had engaged in such conduct he might be dismissed. But 43 million Americans had twice voted Mr Clinton into office, knowing about his extramarital proclivities, and to consider overturning that verdict struck Mr Houghton as "a bit presumptuous". Besides, actions could only qualify as impeachable "high crimes" if directed against the state, not inflicted on oneself.

Mr Houghton is the sixth House Republican to say he opposes impeachment. Three Democrats have vowed to vote for it. That means the President's strategists have to win over eight more moderate Republicans to achieve a House majority of 218 to block impeachment.

Whether they can is a cliffhanger. One option under consideration was for Mr Clinton to make a renewed expression of remorse this weekend. The tarnish of presidential impeachment, only the second in American history, would be followed by a trial in the Senate, but the verdict would fall shy of the two-thirds vote needed to remove Mr Clinton from office.

It would help if Mr Clinton could be more forthright about his wrongdoing, rather than insisting that his misleading testimony did not amount to perjury. He infuriated Republicans by his evasive answers to 81 questions from the House Judiciary Committee. A Washington joke has Republicans sorting his responses into three piles: Whoppers, Knee Slappers and You Must be Joking.

This week's Judiciary Committee hearings have become so much moving wallpaper for Americans who are bored by the issue and preoccupied with Christmas shopping. Today the committee will debate formal charges against Mr Clinton, known as articles of impeachment, and will probably vote tomorrow to send them to the House.

At yesterday's session, William Weld, a former Republican governor of Massachusetts, spoke up for Mr Clinton. He suggested a punitive five-part alternative to impeachment to preserve "the dignity of the country". It would require a vote of censure, a written report on Mr Clinton's conduct, his written acknowledgement of wrongdoing, a heavy fine and the possibility of criminal prosecution after he leaves office in January 2001.

Crisis looms as Iraq halts arms inspectors again

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A NEW Gulf crisis loomed last night after Iraq refused United Nations weapons inspectors access to a suspect site in Baghdad. It came less than a month after a pledge of full co-operation by Iraq narrowly averted an aerial bombardment by American and British forces.

Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, described the incident as "very serious", while America gave a warning that it remained "poised to act" should Iraq break its promise of full compliance. Washington was awaiting a full report from Mr Butler, a White House spokesman said.

The report was certain to be harsh. "Iraqi claims that this [inspection] was illegitimate are simply unacceptable, against the law — that is, the resolutions of the Security Council," said Mr Butler.

Nevertheless, a senior Western diplomat at the UN suggested yesterday that a single incident of non co-operation would not provoke airstrikes on Iraq. "We really do not think that one incident is going to trigger something in a matter of hours or days," he said. "The Security Council will have to come to a decision on whether there is co-operation or not."

First news of the latest dispute came from Iraqi officials who accused the inspectors of provoking a confrontation by choosing a particularly sensitive site. The UN team arrived unannounced at offices of the ruling Baath Party and refused a request to present a written list of what they were looking for. Witnesses said that the inspectors, who arrived in four vehicles, left after 45 minutes when the doors of the building remained locked.

"It appears that such provocative and astonishing methods practised by elements of the [UN] Special Commission's inspection teams clearly aim to manufacture crises and problems," said Hussam Muhammad Amin, Iraq's liaison officer with the inspectors.

The incident came on the second day of so-called "challenge" inspections to unannounced sites which were seen as the first test of Baghdad's November 14 pledge to co-operate unconditionally with Unscom, the UN's special commission on disarming Iraq.

Since the inspectors resumed their work, Iraq has already refused to provide key documents requested by Unscom or to allow access to its archives. On November 26, the inspectors were denied entry to a military base of the People's Mujahideen, a Baghdad-based Iranian opposition group. Unscom has also complained about threatening flights by Iraqi helicopters.

The incident is the latest in a series of stand-offs this year. Iraq, arguing that Unscom's sole interest was in ensuring sanctions remained in place, had first limited inspections on August 5 and then halted all co-operation on October 31.

After the Iraqi climbdown, Washington, weary of being drawn into repeated and costly military build-ups, reserved the right to attack without warning if Baghdad broke its promise.

Any obstruction is certain to set back Baghdad's hopes of an early lifting of the eight-year-old sanctions. Next week, Mr Butler will prepare a report on whether Iraq has kept its promise of full co-operation. It will enable the UN Security Council to judge whether Baghdad has earned a review of all its obligations.

☐ **New York:** William "Scott" Ritter Jr, a former UN arms inspector, has signed a book contract to spell out his suggestions for dealing with Iraq: bomb the country and overthrow its leader, President Saddam Hussein.

"Nothing less will work, and nothing less is justified," Mr Ritter is quoted as saying in the announcement by Simon and Schuster. *(AP)*



EYAL WARSHAVSKY / AP

Corporal Assaf Miyara, being beaten by rioters near Ramallah last Wednesday

Israeli riot soldier faces court martial

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Army is to court-martial a young conscript whose televised beating by a mob of Palestinian students in the West Bank last week shocked the country.

The incident, in which Corporal Assaf Miyara was dragged from a civilian car abandoned by its driver after stone-throwing Palestinians smashed its windscreen, sparked a national debate about whether the Israeli military has lost its nerve.

Corporal Miyara will be charged with not carrying a loaded weapon and leaving base without permission. But he will not face charges for fleeing, or for failing to fire his M16 rifle, which was stolen but later recovered by Palestinian police.

The incident received maximum publicity because of the presence of an international media corps filming a Palestinian protest for the release of Arab prisoners. Since then the attack has become one of the most discussed topics in Israel. The sight of the uniformed Jew failing to defend himself and then fleeing from his attackers deeply embarrassed the Israeli Army.

The army said that while it expected its soldiers "to respond differently", it took account of the fact that Corporal Miyara had no ammunition clip in his rifle. It said he would be court-martialled for failing to carry a loaded rifle while in the occupied West Bank, and for leaving his base near the Palestinian town of Ramallah without permission. He had only been in the West Bank for a few weeks.

"I am relieved because Assaf does not deserve to be lynched beyond what he has already gone through," his father said. His mother had vowed to take him back to her native Britain if the army had decided to make an example of him.

The army also said it would discipline the man's commanding officer.

'Long Island Lolita' demands retrial

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE "Long Island Lolita", jailed as a teenager for shooting her former lover's wife, is claiming that she deserves a new trial because she had a romance with her defence lawyer that included fondling and "role-playing games".

Amy Fisher said in court papers that she wanted to withdraw her guilty plea because her besotted lawyer gave her bad advice. Ms Fisher, now 23, was sentenced to between five and 15 years in prison for shooting her lover's wife after Joey Buttafuoco dumped her. Mary Jo Buttafuoco recovered, but still has a bullet lodged in her neck.

Facing a possible charge of attempted murder, Ms Fisher pleaded guilty to the assault and illegal possession of a weapon after her lawyer told her she would be granted parole in three years. Still in jail after six years, however, she is seeking to reopen the case by complaining that she never obtained proper legal counsel.

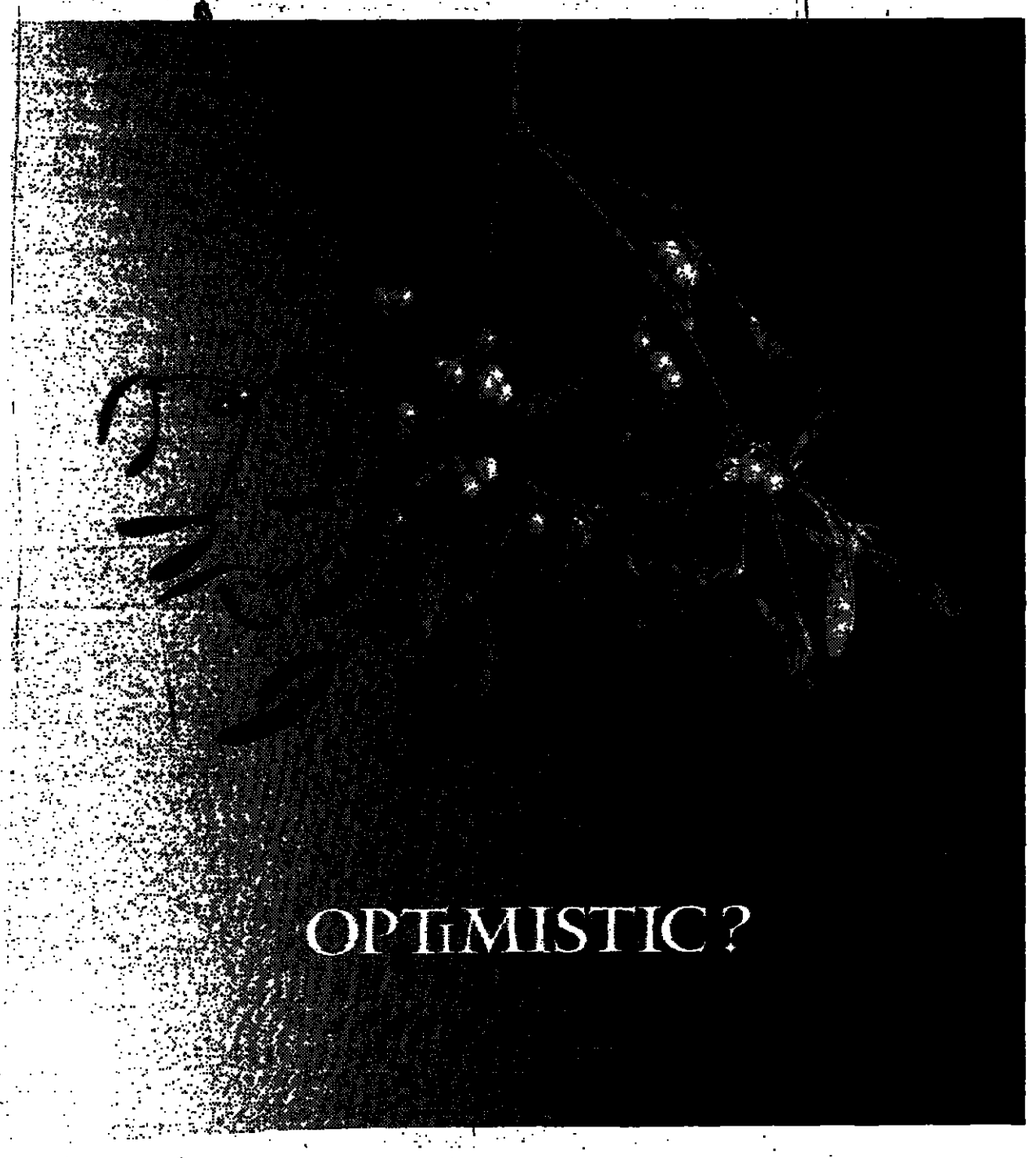
"He lied to me," Fisher said of her defence lawyer, Eric Naiburg, 57, a married father of two. In a 75-page affidavit that included copies of poems and letters he had sent her in jail, she detailed an "intense" relationship that began while she was on bail in 1992.

"We began to share fantasies and often talked our way through various 'role playing' games as I sat on his lap or straddled him as he sat in a chair," she said.

Mr Naiburg dismissed the allegations as a "desperate attempt by a desperate woman" to gain her freedom after losing the chance of early parole because of repeated bad behaviour inside prison.



Fisher: "desperate"



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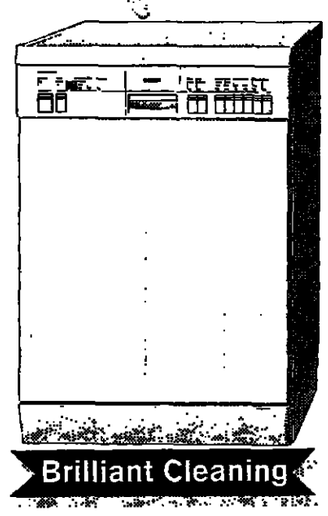
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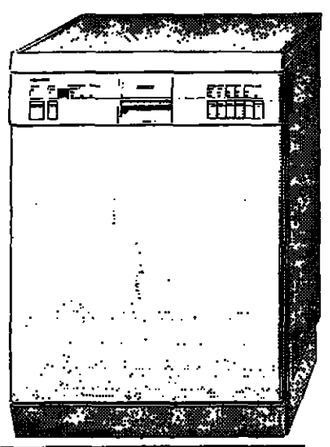
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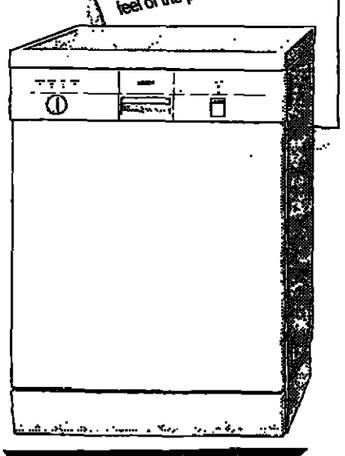
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Kosovo monitors lose Belgrade's sexual favours

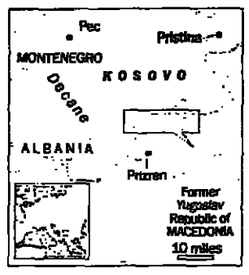
Officials have banished prostitutes from a peacekeeping training school, writes **Tom Walker** in Brezovica

THE Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe yesterday hurriedly dispatched a group of prostitutes back to Belgrade after they were discovered in a Kosovo ski hotel servicing international "verifiers" supposedly monitoring the province's fragile ceasefire.

Senior officials of the OSCE in Vienna have learnt to their horror that a group of Italian ex-servicemen running the OSCE training school at the Hotel Narcis in Brezovica have turned a blind eye to ten nights of multinational high jinks.

Before they vanished yesterday morning the women involved revealed they had been sent from the Serbian capital specifically to do business with Kosovo's new influx of Western observers, many of whom have had distinguished military careers. British verifiers have been among those taking advantage of the hotel's seventh-floor delights, and it may have been through British channels within the OSCE that the brothel racket — verifiers paid the ladies DM150 (£53) an hour — was rumbled.

"I overheard a senior Brit who said there was nothing he could do to stop his boys having a bit of fun on a Saturday night", said a local interpreter in Pristina, where the alarm bells at the OSCE's regional headquarters began ringing at the weekend.



"It's very worrying and serious and it must be stopped at once," Mons Nyberg, an OSCE spokesman in Vienna, said yesterday. "We must be vigilant".

For their part, the women were sad to leave. "The Italians were fun and we had a big farewell party," said 23-year-old Dragana. "We earned twice as much as we could in Belgrade, but the Germans were cold, and we never had time to really get to know the Americans.

"I don't understand why we have to go, because there are a lot of men needing female company here".

A night spent in Brezovica, a largely moribund ski resort that boasts Europe's third-longest downhill run, had duly confirmed the absurd theatre of an evening's relaxation at the cavernous Hotel Narcis, home for the next six months to rotating groups of verifiers. Providing about 200 guests daily, the OSCE contract with the hotel is worth more than $1 million (£565,000).

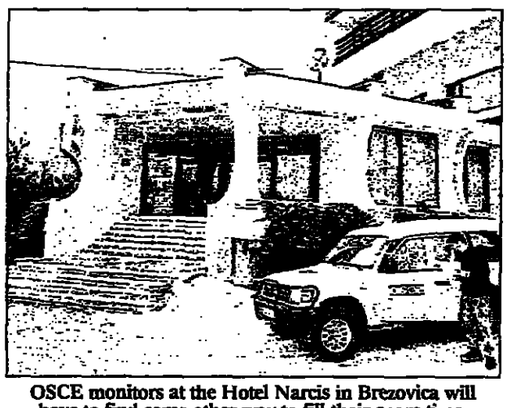
After dinner, a handful of Italian and American monitors sat in a coffee lounge, listening to their compatriots crashing out John Denver ballads on a guitar. Rather more earnest German observers were watching Algerian satellite television, while on the first floor the occasional training seminars on mine awareness and kidnap avoidance dragged on.

The real action, however, was to be found in a subterranean bowling alley, where a waiter winked and said he knew just what we meant when we inquired if there was a nightclub in the hotel. A few journeys in the lift revealed a brisk trade between the bowling alley and the seventh floor, where verifiers anxious not to be caught *in flagrante* in their own rooms could be guaranteed privacy by Dragana and her two friends.

"We'll do it in whatever room," she said in a frank interview in which she revealed signatures on her breasts, one from a waiter and one from an Italian verifier. She was uncertain how the trade had been organised, but said a man named Mario was involved.

Asked if there was any danger of OSCE monitors getting into trouble for taking a girl, a waiter said: "Are you kidding? They're here just for the foreigners".

A small army of local bodyguards is supposed to keep the hotel clear of all non-OSCE personnel.



OSCE monitors at the Hotel Narcis in Brezovica will have to find some other way to fill their spare time



Women MPs celebrate President Dreifuss's victory, a milestone in Swiss politics

Swiss break with tradition to elect woman President

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

SWITZERLAND made a decisive break with tradition yesterday when parliamentary deputies elected Ruth Dreifuss as its first woman and first Jewish President.

Her election to the largely ceremonial post is seen as a key step in the country's political evolution, especially as it has been dogged by charges of anti-Semitism over the treatment of Holocaust victims.

Feminists hailed her victory, coming less than three decades after Swiss women won the right to vote in 1971. They hoped that it would now mark an end to long-standing misogyny in Swiss public life.

Mrs Dreifuss, presently the Interior Minister and Vice-President, will preside over the seven-member Cabinet next year after winning 158 of the 210 votes cast in parliament yesterday. Although she will now represent Switzerland on state occasions, the President has no express policy-making powers. The term of office is one year, with the presidency rotating among Cabinet ministers, making the vote a foregone conclusion.



President Dreifuss: job is largely ceremonial

Mrs Dreifuss, 58, became only the second woman and the first member of Switzerland's 17,500-strong Jewish community to join the Cabinet in 1993. She went on to hold the key post of Interior Minister as Swiss banks came under attack over the withholding of assets deposited by Holocaust victims. She welcomed the banks' decision to compensate the victims' families and warned her compatriots to oppose the temptation to sweep the continuing controversy over Switzerland's past under the carpet.

Leading article, page 23

WORLD IN BRIEF

Suharto quizzed about fortune

Jakarta: Former Indonesian President Suharto appeared for questioning at the high prosecutor's office here as part of the Indonesian Government's renewed efforts to investigate his alleged $40 billion (£24 billion) fortune. (Patricia Nunan writes).

Wearing a batik shirt, Mr Suharto smiled and appeared relaxed as he spoke briefly to journalists. "I have met the summons of the Attorney-General to give the necessary information," Mr Suharto, 77, said after the three-hour meeting. One of his lawyers said the former President answered questions about his charity foundations, bank deposits, land and other assets. Last week the Government said it had found $3.2 million deposited in Mr Suharto's name in six banks.

Palestinian riot death

Jerusalem: A new shadow was cast over this weekend's arrival in the Holy Land of President Clinton when one Palestinian was killed and at least 80 wounded in the worst clashes between Arabs and Jews for months (Christopher Walker writes). The unrest is undermining the purpose of the visit, which is to cement the Wye peace accord. Israel has made clear that in the present climate it has no intention of carrying out the agreed further withdrawal from the West Bank that is due for implementation on December 18.

Mob kills prisoners

Delhi: A 5,000-strong mob broke into a prison in eastern India, dragged out two inmates, shot them with bows and arrows and burnt them to death, the Press Trust of India reported. The attackers, mainly poor villagers, also set fire to a police station, several government vehicles, a church and 92 houses of Christians at Gajapati, in the coastal state of Orissa. The Hindu mob accused the Christian victims of stealing about £450. Twenty policemen who tried to intervene were injured, and 30 other prisoners escaped. *(AFP)*

Bongo stays in charge

Libreville: Omar Bongo, Gabon's ruler for the past 31 years, has been re-elected President of the Central African country for seven more years with 66 per cent of the vote. Pierre Mamboundou, the first runner-up among seven opponents, received 16 per cent of the vote. The Gabonese Opposition has already claimed voters' lists were rigged. Despite widespread allegations of corruption, the President retains a national following, in part because of Gabon's stability and relatively high standard of living. *(AP)*

Teacher saves children

Brussels: A school teacher evacuated 50 children from a bus stranded on a railway crossing minutes before it was rammed by a fast train. VRT radio said the train had been travelling at 75 mph when it hit the bus, which had lost a wheel, near Wontergem, southwest of Ghent. None of the children was injured, but about six rail passengers were slightly injured by flying glass. *(Reuters)*

Kevorkian to be tried

Waterford, Michigan: Dr Jack Kevorkian was ordered to stand trial on murder and assisted suicide charges over a death by injection that was videotaped and shown on the television magazine *60 Minutes*. "The intent to kill was premeditated and thought out beforehand," District Judge Phyllis McMillen said at a preliminary hearing. *(AP)*

Islamic rioters burn women's aid projects

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

MUSLIM fundamentalists with knives and clubs rampaged through the eastern Bangladesh town of Brahman Baria yesterday, attacking and burning Western-funded projects for women and forcing charity workers to run for their lives.

"These are the work of the Devil," a militant said, as he and his slogan-chanting accomplices wrecked a school for adults run by a local charity. The riots, which have been continuing since late on Monday, have left more than 250 people injured, many critically. Trains and other forms of transport were also attacked.

The authorities in the farming town, about 120 miles east of the capital, Dhaka, called up reserve police officers and paramilitary troops as the violence spread to adjoining villages.

Development projects for women, including literacy centres and training workshops, seemed to be the target of the fundamentalists, who came from a local Islamic religious school. Radical clerics at the town's main mosque announced a fatwa, accusing the development agencies of conspiring against Islam.

Japanese wife 'fed arsenic to victims'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A WOMAN accused of a bizarre insurance racket was yesterday charged with murder in a mass poisoning that has transfixed Japan.

Prosecutors say Masumi Hayashi, 37, mixed arsenious acid into curry at a July festival, killing four people and making 63 others ill. The charges are the most serious yet in indictments against the former insurance saleswoman for attempted murder and insurance fraud.

Police discovered Mrs Hayashi, assisted by her husband Kenji, had taken out dozens of life insurance policies and that some of those covered had been ill after sampling her cooking. Mrs Hayashi has been charged with serving a pancake laced with arsenic to a former employee of her husband. Prosecutors say the murder attempt failed when the man vomited.

Yesterday they alleged Kenji was a target too, Mrs Hayashi mixing arsenic in gruel to obtain £710,000 in insurance. Kenji, who also vomited, apparently suspected nothing.

Mrs Hayashi, who denies all charges, is said to have taken out 130 policies covering 20 people and worth £13.2 million over 16 years. They cost £760,000 in premiums, and prosecutors believe more than £3 million was paid in claims.

However, police in Wakayama, western Japan, have yet to find a motive for the festival poisonings. None of the victims was insured.





Chechen leader admits botched rescue

By Anna Blundy in Moscow and Daniel McGrory

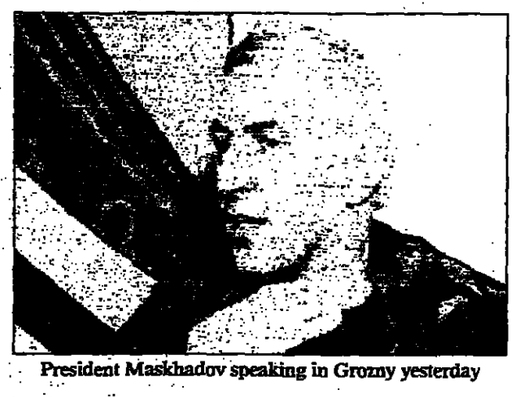
THE four hostages whose severed heads were found by a road in Chechnya on Tuesday had been murdered after a bungled rescue attempt, Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen President, admitted yesterday. "The kidnappers cruelly massacred the hostages during an operation to free them," he said.

This contradicted earlier reports from Chechnya indicating that the three Britons, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi and Peter Kennedy, and Stanley Shaw from New Zealand — all seized from their heavily guarded flat in Grozny on October 3 — had been killed in anticipation of an imminent raid.

Sergei Stepashin, the Russian Interior Minister, informed Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador to Moscow, on Tuesday evening that the murders had been preceded by a firefight. Mr Stepashin met the British and New Zealand Ambassadors in Moscow yesterday to discuss the deaths. "The purpose was to work together with the authorities in Moscow and Grozny toward finding those guilty and seeing that they are punished," said Sir Andrew.

The grieving families were telephoned by ministers last night and told of the joint British and Russian investigation into the mistakes that led to the killings.

In the Commons Tony Blair called the murders "tragic and horrifying" and Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister, emphasised that the Government would not rest until the perpetrators of this "monstrous crime" had been brought to justice and punished. The Russian Interior Ministry first told the British Embassy in Moscow that the bodies had been recovered. Last night, however, they said that only the severed heads had been found by a deserted highway, 25 miles from Grozny, the capital.


President Maskhadov speaking in Grozny yesterday

The Government said that it would not risk sending a British envoy from its Moscow Embassy to lead the investigation. "Chechnya remains extremely unsafe for British officials and it would be irresponsible to endanger any more British lives by sending our officials."

The four men were seized by 20 gunmen while working on a £190-million telephone system contract for Granger Telecom. The Surrey-based company has said it will not send more staff to Grozny, but will train Chechen staff in Britain to finish the installation.

Yesterday the company refused to say any more about its covert negotiations with the kidnappers, who on Thursday allowed the four to make a telephone call to assure Granger of their safety.

The British Embassy in Moscow confirmed that Granger and Chechen Telecom had elected to take charge of the situation themselves and *Segodnya* newspaper reported yesterday that men from Granger's security services had spent "a few weeks" in neighbouring Ingushetia in an effort to make direct contact with the Chechens.

Segodnya speculated that the engineers were so gruesomely murdered because of an internecine feud involving Vakha Arsanov, the Chechen Vice-President, whose relatives are joint founders of Chechen Telecom. The killings may have been commercially motivated or have been an attempt to discredit the whole Myalkhi clan, to which Mr Arsanov belongs. Mr Arsanov was involved in the hostage trade in an official capacity during the 1994-1996 war of independence with Russia.

This theory is backed up by threats made shortly after the men were kidnapped by the Myalkhi and Zusma clans, which declared their intention of taking revenge on the friends and relatives of the kidnappers. It was noted at the time that Chechen Telecom was run by senior clan members and it may have been this link that encouraged the four men and Granger Telecom to believe they were safe.

It is also likely that the same link allowed Granger and the men's relatives to believe the four, once kidnapped, would soon be released.

JOHN OST

A friend of Darren Hickey, 26, said his parents, Eamonn and Maura, were "distraught and bewildered. They are beside themselves with grief. This was the most horrific thing that could have happened, they can barely get to grips with it."

Relatives of Stanley Shaw, 58, whose wife and young daughter returned to New Zealand last week, spoke of their grief. His sister, Joan Shivas, had been hoping to have her brother home for Christmas.

Mr Maskhadov, who blamed the murders on forces bent on discrediting his regime, was "confident the criminals will be detained and severely punished".

But, in the violent and anarchic atmosphere of today's Chechnya that may be easier said than done.

Briton tells of escape from kidnap gang

Trauma expert will return to danger zone, writes **Daniel McGrory**

SAVITRI MACCUISH will never know how close she came to being another kidnap victim of Chechen gunmen.

The British health worker, who was hiding out on the Chechen border, was awoken after midnight by her armed minders who feared a gang of kidnappers had come for her. Bodyguards heard intruders and there were gunshots outside her bedroom window.

The scare happened just days before the four telephone engineers, including three Britons, were beheaded by their captors.

The 39-year-old former corporate financier had ignored Foreign Office pleas to stay away from the lawless breakaway republic, where she was helping Chechens deal with the trauma of their civil war.

"I wasn't being foolhardy or naive, I just couldn't slip back home to Britain and live in comfort and safety knowing there were people who desperately needed help.

"Our last trip began three days after the four telecom engineers had been kidnapped, but we stepped up security and took every precaution we could."

Lookouts surrounded her hideaways, armed minders shadowed her every move, and they changed cars on every journey to avoid being spotted. In the mountainous area where she was operating it is nearly impossible to tell where the borders with Chechnya's badlands begin and end.

Hiding in a former Communist Party sanatorium, Miss MacCuish admitted that she and her colleague, Andrew Wells, had made the mistake of staying too long in the same place.

"After only a few days in one place, word gets out you are there, and that puts in danger those who guard you." Her interpreter, who had witnessed gunmen slaughter six Red Cross aid workers in July, "thought it was going to happen again", she said.


Savitri MacCuish was targeted by abductors but insists that traumatised local people need the help of groups such as the Life Foundation

"She heard the sound of men using bird whistles as obvious signals. Then someone deliberately closed a car door very softly and there were footfalls outside," she said. "She ran into to my room, told me to grab what I could and led me to a desolate hideout where she said I wasn't to answer to my name or show myself, no matter how long it took.

"Of course, we knew the risks of kidnap, but it is chilling to think you could be next. We heard gunshots but we didn't know who was doing the firing", she said. "Our bodyguards had rushed outside and the intruders obviously fled".

Her first visit to the area came after the British missionaries Camilla Carr and Jon James had been seized. She had been asked to help staff from the Little Star children's trauma centre where the couple worked.

"We had no idea then whether the couple would ever be seen alive again. Their co-workers felt guilty that they had let Camilla and Jon be abducted and yet they had also suffered so much themselves."

Miss MacCuish, who is from Perthshire, arrived back in Britain hours after the discovery of the four murdered telecom engineers.

She works for the Life Foundation and has helped trauma victims in Bosnia and Northern Ireland, but says: "Chechnya is the bloodiest of them all. My mother worries about me going, but I intend to return to the area soon".

Russia to assist in finding killers

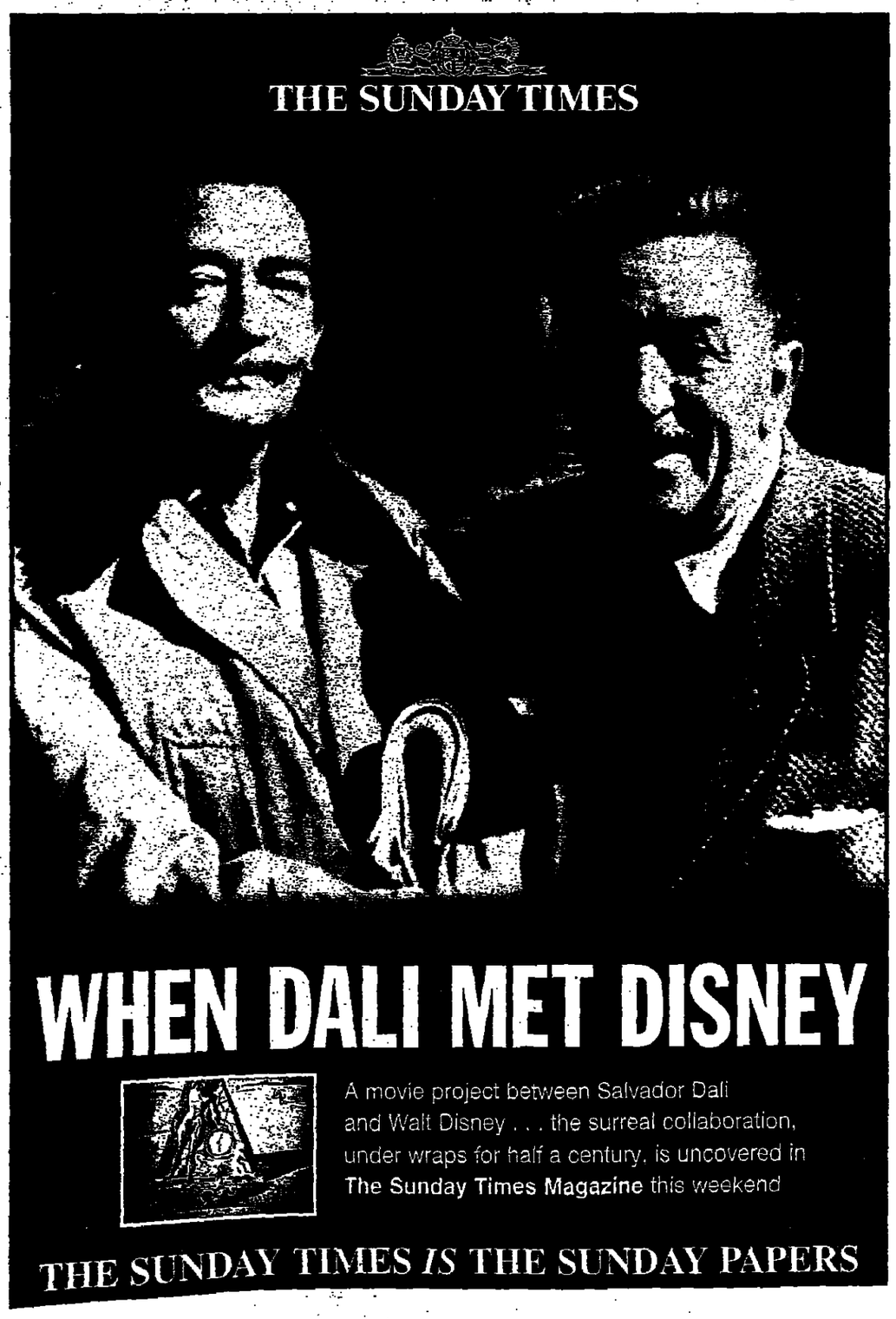
By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, said he had a "very sombre" meeting in Brussels yesterday with Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, who conveyed Moscow's condolences to the families of the men killed in Chechnya.

Mr Ivanov also promised to send a message to President Maskhadov of Chechnya urging him to give his "fullest co-operation" to the efforts to find out what happened, and how those responsible for the "horrific" murders could be brought to justice.

Speaking in Brussels where both attended a Nato foreign ministers' meeting, Mr Cook said neither he nor Mr Ivanov underestimated the difficulties of making progress in the lawless state of Chechnya. "I now repeat in the strongest terms our advice: Chechnya is not safe for British citizens."

Mr Cook said that Russia had throughout sought to be as helpful as possible, but its power was very limited in Chechnya. Moscow was in dialogue with Mr Maskhadov, and the Kremlin had agreed to use its influence with him.

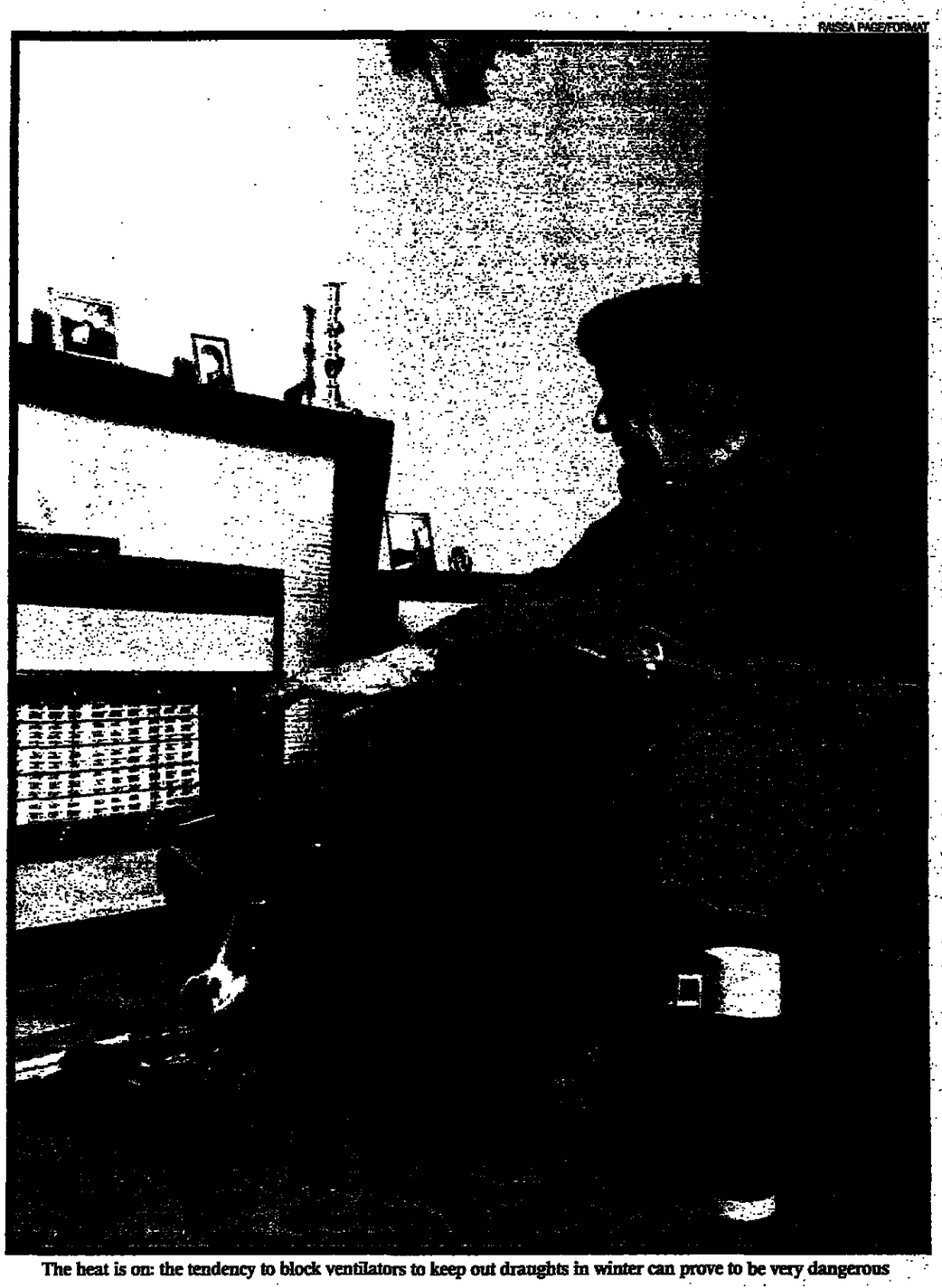




Beware the silent killer



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on how to spot carbon monoxide poisoning; Parkinson's disease; why tomatoes can help in the fight against cancer; parasitic infections; and women and heart attacks



RASSIA PAGE/FORMAT

The heat is on: the tendency to block ventilators to keep out draughts in winter can prove to be very dangerous

"The frills round the cutlets can wait/Till the girl has replenished the cruets/ And switched on the logs in the grate". John Betjeman, in his poem *How to Get on in Society*, satirised the pretensions of a more class-conscious age. He didn't approve of simulated logs in an electric fire but his equally socially aware successors have never poked fun at gas flames licking around imitation lumps of coal.

To Betjeman's generation, gas fires evoked images of a warm glow in Oxford rooms or the hiss of gas lamps over the stalls in the market. When Betjeman was a young man, 98 per cent of all suicidal poisonings were by gas, and 50 per cent of accidental deaths came from badly designed or poorly maintained domestic gas fittings, but the cosiness of the gas fire erased such gloomy thoughts.

> People chance their luck with noxious fumes

Recently Sir Kenneth Calman, the former Chief Medical Officer, prompted by the Carbon Monoxide and Gas Safety Society charity, wrote to doctors to remind them that even with North Sea gas, there is still a danger of carbon monoxide poisoning if fittings and ventilation are not properly maintained. Each year 50 people die accidentally from carbon monoxide poisoning, and many more suffer lasting neurological damage.

As many cases of persistent, non-fatal carbon monoxide poisoning are not diagnosed correctly, Sir Kenneth doesn't list only the medical clues which the observant doctor will notice when confronted by an inexplicably ill patient, but also provides tips on how to recognise a sub-standard heater, stove, water-heater or boiler.

Although North Sea gas is not intrinsically poisonous, lethal carbon monoxide is produced by its incomplete combustion. Any carbon containing fuel which is partially burnt, or where flues are blocked, may be hazardous. In 1996-97, 38 of 71 deaths stemmed from faulty gas appliances, 26 from the burning of solid fuel and seven from car exhaust fumes accidentally breathed — worn and leaking exhaust pipes are commonly responsible.

Carbon monoxide poisoning mimics a wide variety of conditions so that its diagnosis requires a sleuth-like approach. It may well be striking that more than one person in the house is ill: that the symptoms miraculously improve once, for instance, a student leaves his Hackney digs to go home; and that the patient's troubles are worse in winter when heaters are in use.

The doctor is advised to ask about black sooty marks on the walls around any gas fitting, whether stove, boiler or fire. Unbelievably, people often block up flues and ventilators, preferring to chance their luck from noxious fumes rather than suffer a cold draught. The temptation to stuff rags into the ventilator is particularly strong in the bathroom, where draughts of cold air may ruin the contemplative soak. Any heater or appliance in which the flames appear yellow rather than blue is cause for concern. Now that many flats are carved out of larger, older houses, gas may seep through the floorboards from a neighbour.

The symptoms of minor degrees of carbon monoxide poisoning are so diffuse that they can be confused with food poisoning or flu. Both these infections can — as carbon monoxide poisoning does — strike the whole family: 90 per cent of those who have been gassed will have a headache, 50 per cent will have nausea and vomiting and will feel dizzy, 30 per cent will feel drowsy and 20 per cent will fail to understand why they are feeling so weak.

Medical students are taught that patients with carbon monoxide poisoning have a healthy cherry-red hue, so that the most sallow of office workers suddenly resembles a rugged farm worker. This occurs only when the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is high and is not often seen in patients still breathing; it is more of a post-mortem room sign than one noted in the surgery. When I was a casualty officer we had one (live) patient who displayed the ruddy complexion admirably; so unusual was it that everybody rushed to see him. Doctors now have a gadget that enables them to test patients' breath for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Patients with severe carbon monoxide poisoning are treated with pure oxygen given through a tightly fitting mask. Hyperbaric oxygen is delivered under pressure if they have lost consciousness, have neurological signs other than a headache, heart problems, or if the patient is pregnant.

● *The CO and Gas Safety Society: 01732 466135.*

Trial to ease Parkinson's

Michael J. Fox's appearance and lifestyle appeared typical of a generation of Hollywood actors. Appearances, however, can be deceptive: for ten years this 37-year-old star has been disguising the signs and symptoms of early onset primary Parkinson's disease. The mean age of onset is 57 but it can strike in childhood or adolescence.

Parkinson's disease with its shake, slow movements, rigidity and the characteristic shuffling gait seems to typify old age, but whatever a sufferer's age, Parkinson's makes everyday life a trial. Symptoms can be helped by levodopa and an increasing armoury of other drugs. But whatever the pills, it has long been recognised that the disease is more disabling when the patient is tense, tired and not at ease with the world. Is the converse true? If the patient can be encouraged to relax, will symptoms lessen?

> If patients are able to relax, will their symptoms lessen?

Dr Andrew Lees at the Middlesex Hospital, London, and Professor Anthony Shapiro, of the Royal Free Hospital in London, who have made a special study of the disease, are recruiting patients to take part in a project under Dr Chloe Stallibrass, of the University of Westminster, a former economist, and now a teacher of the Alexander Technique.

The trial, funded by the Foundation for Integrated Medicine, with a contribution from the charity Remedi, is designed to compare two different methods of calming the mind and muscles — therapeutic massage and the Alexander Technique, both complementary disciplines.

In this research, 90 patients will be divided into three groups. The first will have no additional treatment to standard drug therapy. The second group will have therapeutic massage which concentrates on relaxing the whole person, toning muscles, improving circulation and joint flexibility and enhancing a sense of wellbeing. The third will be given the Alexander Technique. This is a method of improving poise, co-ordination and balance. It is learnt in individual lessons with manual guidance and instruction from the teacher.

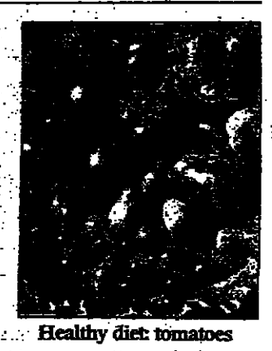
The trial, following a pilot study reported in *FACT*, the journal for alternative and complementary therapy, is unusual in attempting to evaluate two complementary procedures by applying scientific criteria acceptable in traditional medicine.

The doctors assessing the patients, randomly allocated to the different groups, will be unaware which therapy the patients had. The patients will have had the disease for a similar time and have similar disabilities. Each will then be treated for three months, at the end of which the effect of the procedures will be evaluated by judging the changes in difficulty when performing a wide variety of daily activities. In particular, their skill in performing fine movements, such as handwriting, and gross movements, such as walking, will be measured.

Parkinson's disease also affects the psyche. Many patients become depressed, not only because previous activities are now beyond their capabilities, but because the actual disease process may effect mood. This trial will demonstrate whether any physical advantage given by the Alexander Technique, or therapeutic massage, is matched by corresponding changes in the patient's outlook.

● *Volunteers should phone Dr Stallibrass on 0171-483-4830*

Can a tomato a day keep cancer at bay?



Healthy diet: tomatoes

TOMATOES, like most brightly coloured fruit, and dark green vegetables such as broccoli, are rich in the antioxidant vitamins that are valuable in protecting our arteries and may reduce the risks of some cancers. These fruits and vegetables are natural prophylactic medicines, but not only do they contain the antioxidant vitamins in abundance, many also provide other health-giving substances.

The skin of grapes grown in moist, warm climates provides a fine medium for polyphenols, which is why red wine is so healthy. Tomatoes have joined the list of foods that we should be eating. Uncooked, tomatoes are rich in vitamins, but when cooked lycopene, their red pigment, is released and easily absorbed.

Tomatoes should be as much part of a diet as red wine. They will help to protect the prostate — ten large servings a week of tomato sauce, purée or soup will, says one study, halve the incidence of prostate cancer.

A word of warning: tomatoes, like aubergines and some potatoes, contain solanaceous glycoalkaloids, which may inhibit the way in which a body disposes of anaesthetic. If tomatoes have not kept the carcinoma of the prostate at bay, the patient is advised to avoid them in the week before a radical prostatectomy.

Angina can be a pain in the nose

IT IS not only feminists who feel that women with heart disease have a raw deal. They are less often referred for a consultant's opinion or to have thorough tests than men. This apparent discrimination has been attributed to the greater number of early middle-aged men who have the disease and hence a greater awareness of its possibility.

A recent report in the *American Heart Journal* points out that there may be another cause. It suggests that when a woman has a heart attack the symptoms are subtly different from those experienced by a man. In both sexes chest pain is, of course, the most likely symptom, but women were more likely to complain of pain in their neck, in their back, their jaw or to have the symptoms of indigestion and nausea. They were less likely to sweat after the attack.

In both sexes, angina, or the pain of a heart attack, is usually absolutely traditional, the heavy crushing transthoracic pain radiating down the left arm. Angina can also atypically be felt in the neck, jaw, back, at the top of the arm, in the teeth or, most strangely of all, at the tip of the nose.

ARTS

Thumbs up to Hollywood's latest swashbuckler, The Mask of Zorro. Pages 36-39

Skin-crawling delusions

NURSES working in genito-urinary medical clinics — formerly known as special or VD clinics — are not usually upset by unsavoury sights.

It often surprised me how disturbed they could be by parasites — usually lice (crabs) — crawling over a patient's skin; some looked distinctly pale when they peered at them through a microscope.

If nurses feel like this, it is hardly surprising that patients are revolted by the idea of harbouring colonies of unwelcome fauna.

Most patients who came to the clinic complaining of crabs had just that, but every now and again someone whose skin and hair was as clean as a whistle would insist that they were infected by parasites. Searches with magnifying glasses would fail to find a quarry but the patients were not daunted. The following week they would return with a grubby-looking match box containing some perfectly innocuous fluff. Microscopes were brought out but to no avail.

The journal *Geriatric Medicine* recently carried a report by Dr Graham Yorston, reviewing the origins and treatment of delusional parasitosis, particularly when it is found in the elderly rather than a younger age group.

Some doctors feel that these patients are suffering from tactile hallucinations, others that they are delusional about genuinely felt sensations. Either way, newly introduced atypical antipsychotics, such as Risperidone, will usually obviate the useless exercise of trying to reassure a patient with magnifying glass and microscope.

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GILL ALLEN

The man behind the blonde wig: Paul O'Grady, creator of Lily Savage, says that being dressed as a woman allows him to get away with more outrageous material

Lily's a doll I play with

Lily Savage's views have much in common with those of her creator, Paul O'Grady. Interview by **Richard Barber**

Should you be a born-again Christian, it seems only fair to warn you off knocking on Paul O'Grady's door this Christmas. "Drives me wild," he says. "I tell them I'm a Satanist and that I can't stop because I've got a goat on the stove. How dare they peddle religion on my doorstep."

O'Grady rearranges his burgundy dress before removing cigarettes and a lighter from inside the cup of his reinforced conical bra.

This is an unusual encounter. O'Grady, 43, is the acerbic Liverpudlian who has breathed fire and brimstone into that curiously endearing creation, Miss Lily Savage.

From the moment, ten years ago, that he jumped on stage at a South London pub and swung into his act, Hurricane Lily has swept him along.

We are sitting in the conservatory of a London hotel. O'Grady is dressed today as Lily, who is dressed as horrid Miss Hannigan, scourge of all those little orphans in *Annie*, the musical playing at London's Victoria Palace. On December 15, as Lily, he steps into the shoes recently occupied by Lesley Joseph. O'Grady and the children are also in this year's Royal Variety Show, to be seen by TV audiences on December 21.

For his part, O'Grady professes to be unsurprised by Lily's success. He recently completed a three-month tour "in Birmingham, where the audience was made up of hard-bitten, bleached-haired divorcees. As soon as I started talking about fellas, you could hear them muttering, 'Go on, Lil, rip into 'em'."

It is a long way from Danny La Rue. O'Grady is not, he emphasises, a pantomime dame. And he isn't a transvestite, although he is openly gay. "It is the duty of creative people to 'out' themselves," he says. "I have never tried to hide my sexuality. I dress up as a woman for financial purposes."

He is more popular, he feels, among women than men. "I talk about real life, and women respond. Men get the hump because they know I've got a foot in both camps. I say things about men's secrets that I shouldn't."

Ask O'Grady if he could kill off Lily and he says: "Oh no. What else could I do? I'm not like Steve Coogan or Harry Enfield. They're good mimics. I'm not." But does he like Lily? "Well, I do, but I don't know her. She's like a doll I play with. She's me, but it's me being her. People say, 'What do you think of Lily?' And I say, 'She's in the garage in a bin liner'." And he says that what comes out of Lily's mouth are not his opinions — which it is not quite true.

The son of Irish parents, O'Grady grew up with his sister and assorted aunts and cousins in working-class Birkenhead. That never leaves you, he says. "It was only recently that I stopped washing my hair with a pan of water." But despite his growing success — there is a video of his live show and a book of Lily's jaded alphabet of life in the shops — he still fears "the wolf round the corner, howling, *waiting to say*, 'Out, you. Back to Vicky Mansions [his North London council flat]. Back to social services.' Even now."

He has bought a house near Tower Bridge, where he lives with his manager. But he wouldn't dream of blowing his new-found wealth on anything else until he had put aside enough to pay his VAT and tax bills. But then, as he points out, fame came late. "And a good job, too, because I'd got my values sorted by then." His


Iron blonde: Lily Savage

childhood apart, those values were shaped in no small part by his years as a care officer with Camden Council in North London. His role was to prevent children from being taken into care. "If something *happened to the parents*, I'd move into the home and look after the kids to stop them being split up." Once, for a full year while social services looked the other way, he says, he cared for six children in abject squalor.

It is this experience that gives the poignancy to Lily's one-liners. So when he says "her ideas are so warped, so demented, you could only get away with them dressed like that", it seems likely that she is a vehicle for her creator to say what he truly believes.

O'Grady admits that it is much harder for him to appear as himself in front of an audience. "If I go to an awards ceremony, I get all shy and look at the floor. I prefer wearing ten inches of slap and a wig to hide behind."

Dressed as a woman, but talking as himself, it is hard to divine where O'Grady ends and Lily begins. Here he is on Diana, Princess of Wales: "I thought she was a cracker. An ordinary woman who married into a bunch of oddballs. She was out there doing stuff, good or bad." He has personal experience of her work for sufferers of Aids. She brightened the time left to a terminally ill friend of his.

"She sat on his bed, held his hand and made all the difference in the world. You had to take your hat off to her." O'Grady's family is thrilled with his success. "My sister Sheila is dead proud. Every time I go to stay, she offers to carry my suitcase. She thinks it's Louis Vuitton. I haven't the heart to tell her that it's fake. But that's me. I'd sooner have a good fake than the real thing because that's what I am."

● Lily Savage — The Live Show *is available from Vision Video, at £14.99*; A Sort of A-Z Thing, *Headline, £9.99*

Perfecting the art of credit card seduction

Men can find pleasure in shopping, says **Sally Morris**

Remember when the best tactic for young single people to meet a partner was to hang out in the supermarket? Mad though it sounded, it had merit: it's easy to read things about a person from his/her trolley. Is she single (meals for one and low-calorie everything)? Is he married (boxes of Tampax among the groceries)? Or, joy of joys, is he single (a six-pack of lager and ready-cooked chicken). You could also judge their financial status from the contents: own brand v Gold Blend, economy v organic.

But for those who want to land a really big fish, the supermarket is child's play: seriously wealthy people have their groceries delivered. If you want to catch a wealthy partner you need to do your homework.

This week 22-year-old Alexander Rim was photographed leaving the £1 million home of his new lover, 48-year-old Cheryl Barrymore, former wife of Michael Barrymore, the award-winning television personality. They met when Rim, an immaculately turned out and well-mannered fashion assistant at the Versace store in Bond Street, helped Cheryl to pick out some clothes.

Since her divorce from Barrymore, Cheryl has not only been left single, but also financially secure.

But finding a rich woman requires research, timing and preparation. Most of all, you need to know how to distinguish between a genuinely wealthy woman from someone who is flash but has no cash.

Where men might use a car to advertise their affluence, women rely on a small, discreet designer label, the cut of a jacket or the curve of a heel.

Wealthy women shop. Not like the rest of us shop — to replace things or to find something for a special occasion — they shop as a way of life. And their stamping ground is well marked out.

You are where you shop: a woman's carrier bag says more about her finances, her taste and her ambitions than anything else she owns. Try Sloane Street for Gucci, Prada, Joseph. A little light lunch at Harvey Nichols, then perhaps a taxi to Bond Street for Chanel and Donna Karan.

The first rule is to be in the right place at the right time. But where Alexander Rim scored extra points was in having the job of a shop assistant in one of London's most exclusive streets.

> The first rule is: be in the right place at the right time

Most men, as women know to their cost, find clothes shopping a form of torture — "Yes, it's fine. No it doesn't. Can we go?" — which is why women usually shop with girlfriends and prefer female assistants who understand the intricacies of colour and whether it makes your hips look big.

But it isn't enough just to be there. If you can't tell a Prada handbag from a Next one, then you are wasting your time.

Read the magazines. Is grey the colour this season? If she's still wearing brown, she can't afford to update her wardrobe twice a year. Is that hairstyle a Nicky Clarke or simply a department-store salon? *Vogue, Tatler, Harpers*: read, repeat, remember. Designers, shoemaker, jewellers; their names, strengths and weaknesses should trip off the tongue. One faux pas and you've blown the joint credit card.

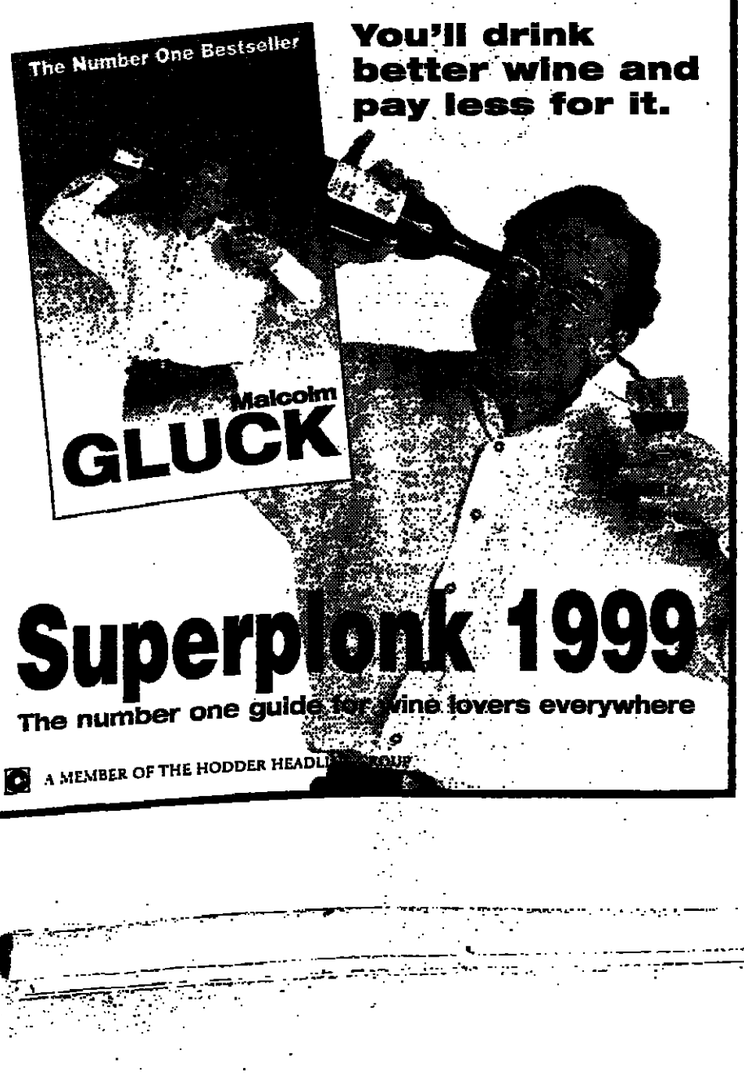
And never overlook those other guides to who's who: *Hello!* and *OK!*. They might not offer much in the high fashion stakes but they will show you who's being invited to parties and who isn't.

And they'll certainly let you know who has just emerged from a financially rewarding divorce.

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The secret of Gordon's success

Magnus Linklater on Britain's most influential ministers

Hard-working, earnest, and with just a hint of Presbyterian gloom about him. It is no surprise that Gordon Brown is a son of the manse. His father, the Rev Dr John Brown, who died this week aged 84, was one of the key influences in his life, and the lessons he instilled in his son have remained — by the Chancellor's own admission — to this day.

No Scot, brought up in that tradition of stern morality and social justice remains immune. To be a son of the manse is to come ready-armed with the driving force of the Protestant work ethic, as well as a properly instilled democratic instinct. It is a powerful combination. Over the years it has produced an astonishingly high proportion of public servants, doctors, lawyers — and, of course, politicians. Mr Brown who, as a boy, listened to his father's sermons on charity, good works, and the social role of the Kirk, has never forgotten the Kirkcaldy manse in which he grew up. The door was always open, and anyone suffering hardship was assured of a warm welcome, a cup of tea, and just possibly, a bit of a talking to. "I learnt a great deal from what my father managed to do for other people," he told Paul Routledge, his biographer. "He taught me to treat everyone equally, and it is something I have not forgotten."

The tradition seems to live on, even in a secular age where the Church of Scotland, like so many others, faces declining congregations and influence. It may not be entirely coincidence that one of Mr Brown's political advisers, the 31-year-old Douglas Alexander, MP for Paisley South, is himself the son of a distinguished Church of Scotland minister; Douglas's sister, Wendy, is a candidate for the Scottish parliament. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, who resigned last week in protest at the treatment of his friend, Lord Cranborne, is another product of the manse, as is Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former Liberal leader. And the Labour Party can feel reasonably confident about its financial affairs, since they are in the hands of David Pitt-Watson, the party's finance director, who is not only a son of a Kirk minister, but his grandfather was Moderator.

One of Mr Brown's closest friends, the television journalist Sheena Macdonald, is the daughter of another Moderator, and her direct and probing interview technique has echoes of an approach that might, in other circumstances, cause the congregation of some parish kirk in the west of Scotland to flinch with collective guilt. For with the inheritance comes an earnest diligence and a sense of the proprieties which is hard to shake off. It is not always comfortable, but it is unmistakable. Lord Reith, whose very name encapsulates a sense of public duty, still has the capacity to prod the conscience of the BBC, 27 years after his death: his father was, of course, a minister. And when the BBC's Board of Governors meets today to decide on whether editorial control of the *Six OClock News* should be devolved to Scotland, they will have to listen to yet another sermon: the National Governor for Scotland is a minister from Skye — the Rev Norman Drummond.

For some reason, newspaper proprietors seem to have been strongly influenced by the Kirk tradition. Both Lord Beaverbrook and Rupert Murdoch have inherited it, as did Woodrow Wilson, the US President, and Andrew Bonar Law, another Chancellor and briefly Prime Minister. There was even one Archbisop of Canterbury: Cosmo Gordon Lang, who was brought up in the manse of his father, a Presbyterian.

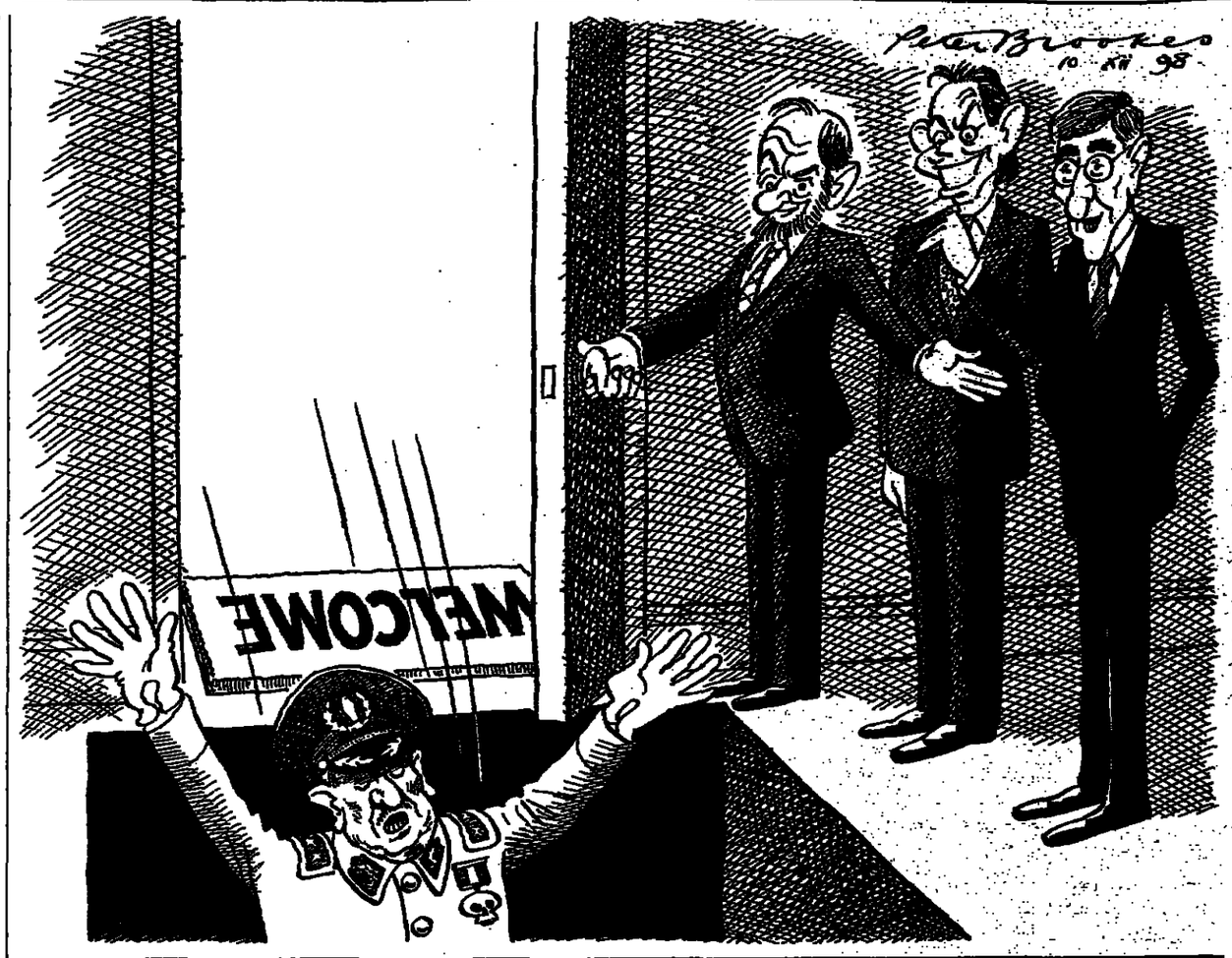
Not everyone born into the tradition of the Kirk has found it a pleasant experience. Robert Louis Stevenson, who spent many of his childhood days in his grandfather's manse, and who was brought up by a bible-quoting mother and a fervently religious nanny, felt the scars of Calvinism all his life. "I had an extreme terror of Hell implanted in me, I suppose by my good nurse, which used to haunt me terribly on stormy nights." Even Heaven, he found, was not much more comforting. Writing to a friend in later life, he said: "I remember when I was a child ... the sickening terror with which I was filled. If that was Heaven, what in the name of Davy Jones and the aboriginal nightmare, could Hell be?"

> The stern teachings of the Kirk are never forgotten

Not that hell-fire and damnation are necessary constituents of a Church of Scotland upbringing. Because it was a democratic institution, with its ministers elected by the congregation, and owing no allegiance to a hierarchy of bishops, it passed on a tradition of liberal thinking that was not always apparent in the Church of England.

The Scottish Enlightenment was allowed to flower in the 18th century despite the risky ideas it spawned, and Church ministers even spoke up for them from the pulpit. Scottish universities were far more flexible in their attitude to religion than most of their English counterparts. Sir Charles Fraser, lawyer, businessman, and former Vice Chairman of United Biscuits, who can trace ministers in his family back to his great-great-great-grandfather, says that there was usually an air of learning about the manse, which encouraged a breadth of understanding, and an essentially classless attitude. "It instilled a strong sense of getting on," he said. "A son of the manse tends to want to achieve things."

Which may explain why Mr Brown still clearly feels there are other goals lying ahead of him.



A life less arbitrary

Human rights extend beyond the cradle, and to the grave, argues Cardinal Basil Hume

While arguments still rage over whether to adopt the euro, we have already made a more fundamental constitutional change by embracing the common European currency of human rights in the Human Rights Act.

When that Act comes into force next year human rights will become increasingly central to our vocabulary. The 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a fitting moment to reflect on what backs the currency of human rights language.

The universal declaration celebrated today grew out of the horror of the Holocaust. It was motivated by a passionate desire to recognise that the same rights belong to all peoples and every individual, and to protect all citizens from excesses of state power. It made a bold claim to universality, founded on our fundamental dignity and equality as human beings.

It is not the State or society which confers these rights. So where do they come from? First, both rights and duties flow from the innate value and dignity of every human life, and from the fact that we share a common humanity. Secondly, if claims to human rights are genuinely to serve human well being, to be more than exercises in mere self-assertion, they need a secure moral foundation.

Today this requires a greater emphasis on duties. As Pope John XXIII wrote, "in human society one's natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty to others: the duty, that is, of recognising and respecting that right ... To claim one's right and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfil them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other..."

We also need to recognise that not all rights are of equal status. Both the universal declaration and the European Convention on Human Rights have a similar ordering, and give prominence to the most basic right of all, from which all others follow: the right to life.

The moral foundation of human rights is gravely weakened in our own society by the brute fact that even this right is not fully respected. How human do you have to be before being able to claim the right to life? The rights of the unborn human life, whether in the womb, or indeed in the test-tube or in the laboratory, seem to depend on whether or not that life is wanted. Recent developments in embryology have served only to underline that from the time of its creation a human embryo is a new human life, with the capacity to develop into an adult human being. That a human life is at stake in the womb is increasingly clear from the therapeutic procedures that doctors can now carry out on the individual before birth. In carrying out such procedures, doctors in effect recognise that the unborn child has a right to be treated as a patient. Opposing sides in the abortion debate both appeal to rights. But the right to life is the foundational right, whereas the moral status of any choice we make is always conditioned by the morality of what is chosen.

> Legal rights must have a firm moral grounding

The European convention distinguishes some fundamental and absolute rights, such as the right to life, and freedom from torture and inhumane treatment. In other cases, such as the right to privacy or to freedom of expression, the convention recognises that a balance may sometimes have to be struck between the claims of an individual or group and the needs and requirements of the community as a whole. There will no doubt be a whole range of crucial legal judgments on such key points of principle during the next few years.

One likely area is over the "right to die". Campaigners for euthanasia may well seek to use the Human Rights Act to argue for the "right" to be killed. The state of Oregon has already legalised doctor-assisted suicide, and advocates of euthanasia will no doubt seek to use the rhetoric of individual rights and choice to promote the same goal here. The 1994 House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics recognised the dangers, and opposed the legalisation of euthanasia. It argued that "Society's prohibition of intentional killing ... is the cornerstone of law and of social relationships. It protects each one of us impartially, embodying the belief that all are equal ... the death of a person affects the lives of others, often in ways and to an extent which cannot be foreseen. We believe that the issue of euthanasia is one in which the interest of the individual cannot be separated from the interest of society as a whole."

We should not be so naive as to think that a greater use of rights language will answer all ethical questions. There is more to morality than rights. In the debates which are sure to arise we must avoid an unreflecting and indiscriminate use of rights language beyond what can be justified in terms of a common understanding of what it means to be human, and of sound moral principles. There are so many situations in today's world in which fundamental human rights are at stake that we must not let the currency be devalued.

One threat to human rights comes from a denial of their universality. Some would even seek to excuse what are clearly human rights violations by arguing that all rights are specific to particular cultures. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has rejected such moral and cultural relativism with these questions: "Do not African mothers weep when their sons or daughters are killed or maimed by agents of repressive rule? Are not African fathers saddened when their children are unjustly jailed or tortured?"

A second threat to human rights comes from weakening the concept of human dignity by denying that any social, economic and cultural rights exist. But the right to life entails the right to a life worthy of the name human — a life, therefore, free of hunger, disease and destitution. Without advocating an unwarranted extension of human rights language, we must recognise that from the right to life flows the right to those conditions which make life more human, such as health, housing, decent work, freedom of speech, education, the right to raise and provide for a family, and religious liberty.

Accepting the universal and indivisible character of these human rights in a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than $1 a day commits us to a search for justice for all. It has profound moral implications for the organisation of the economic and social life of nations, especially when technological change is driving the world towards ever greater economic interdependence. The language of human rights has now gained currency in almost every nation, creed and culture. It has immense potential to influence the decisions of businesses, governments and international organisations so that the good of the human person becomes the goal of globalisation.

But a better global order cannot be created by conventions and laws alone. Laws cannot survive unless morally rooted, and they are always subject to moral criticism. Legal rights must have a firm moral foundation. Moreover, human rights will be respected only if people are fired by a radical and unswerving commitment to the common good of all. This requires a change of heart, I believe, on the part of each of us. We need to embrace a vision of human fulfilment in which we accept that each person is another "self" and that your rights are my responsibility.

I believe that religion underpins the claims of human rights, even if the record of religions is not unblemished. For Christians and Jews, we are each made in the image and likeness of God, and life itself is His gift. For all of us, whatever our faith, the universal call to respect the human rights we celebrate today is no less than a growing awareness of our common humanity on the threshold of a new millennium. Let this day be an advent of hope for the great jubilee that is to come as we prepare to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Anatole Kaletsky returns next week.

Straw is twisting the law

John Laughland objects to selective justice for Pinochet

Jack Straw's decision to let General Pinochet be extradited to Spain is not a victory for international law and justice. Instead, it inflicts severe damage on international law. We are witnessing an exercise in lawless power — the strong bullying the weak.

The gurus of international law claim that the Pinochet rulings are a step towards a more civilised world. Sovereign immunity can no longer be invoked to protect heads of state from prosecution for "international crimes". They claim that the decision is an important step towards the construction of an international system of justice.

This is simply untenable. In the past few weeks, during the period of the general's detention in Britain, three decisions on the same question have gone the other way. In both Belgium and France, appeals were lodged against President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) for crimes against humanity. They were rejected on the grounds that he was a head of state. He visited both countries on official business and left again without let or hindrance. And appeals lodged by Cuban exiles against Fidel Castro were rejected by Spain.

For serving dictators, therefore, the principle of sovereign immunity seems to remain valid. The House of Lords decision can thus only be taken to apply to people who have left office. The Pinochet decision sends a message to all dictators that they should never follow his example and relinquish office peacefully. It is far safer to remain in power and continue to kill with impunity.

The decision also illustrates the highly selective nature of what now passes for "international justice". Contrary to what one leading human rights campaigner affirmed in a recent letter to *The Times*, General Pinochet is not "one of the most notorious dictators of the 20th century". It would be more accurate to say that he was a footnote in the history of 20th-century dictatorship. It is obviously unjust to invoke a law to prosecute a suspected criminal while refusing to invoke it for others, especially if the latter are accused of worse crimes or are continuing to perpetrate them.

And yet the very same "human rights" organisations which have campaigned for the general's prosecution for "genocide" have fought with equal vigour against identical charges being use to bar former communists from public life in the Eastern bloc. Similarly, the same Western powers calling for or facilitating General Pinochet's extradition are themselves in contravention of their own undertakings to hunt down those accused of crimes against humanity in Bosnia, which they refuse to do for political reasons. It is no coincidence that the supposedly judicial, but in reality highly political, Pinochet decisions were taken by a committee within a Parliament and by a minister in a Government.

If Spain wanted to extradite the general, it should have applied directly to Chile. By upholding the decision to arrest him in a third country, all the bilateral extradition treaties now in existence have presumably been rendered null and void. Instead of respecting the established rules of intercourse between states, two powerful countries, Britain and Spain, have in effect declared that their national judicial and political choices are superior to those of a smaller, weaker one. It is to prevent such an arrogant pretence that Article VI of the 1948 Genocide Convention (the very agreement under which the general is being prosecuted) stipulates that "persons charged with genocide ... shall be tried by a competent tribunal of the State in the territory of which the act was committed" or by an international tribunal.

Sovereign immunity is simply the expression of the fact that states are the subjects of international law, just as persons are the subjects of civil law. International law grows out of the contractual agreements concluded between them. Sovereign immunity has never meant that a head of state is not subject to any law higher than himself. On the contrary, the principle of constitutionality, or the idea that the prince is subject to the law of God, is one of the most ancient ideas in political life. Those human rights activists who claim that the Pinochet decisions have invented the notion that heads of state are not absolute rulers are simply confusing the truism that political leaders must answer for their actions with the arrogant proposition that they must answer to *them*.

World history has seen many attempts to create planetary justice and universal monarchy. They have all foundered on the simple fact that it is better for laws to be enforced within the context of existing political communities than abstractly. Any body that brushes aside the principle of the equality of states and stands in judgment over another state becomes like a state itself. This opens up the question "Who guards the guardians?" In the new world order, in which judges hear cases while being allied to one of the parties, and where the law is capriciously invoked for reasons of pure political bias, the answer seems to be — no one.

House moves

NIGHTMARE on ermine street for William Hague. Lord Cranborne and his aristocratic cronies are considering standing for election to the House of Commons after blue bloods are turfed out of the upper house. Thus the old crumpet munchers could be rather powerful in the next Parliament.

"Every Tory association loves a lord, so they would gain nominations easily," I am told. "It would be a big mistake to imagine that we are going to head off to the grouse moor and give up political life."

Constitutional types confirm that the ban on peers standing for the Commons would be unworkable if they were kicked out of the Lords. Among those who admit to be considering the plan is Lord Bethell, the former MEP: "About 150 attend regularly and many have parliamentary experience. Lord Cranborne would be eligible but I do not know which House he will chose to stand for."

I gather that Cranborne has gone abroad to avoid the twin barrels of Tory and radical opinion. "He is lying dodo," says a friend, evoking Lord Lucan's equally hurried exit. "But yes, there is no reason why he should not return to the Commons." I am sure William will find him most loyal.

●*CAROL VORDERMAN'S elevation of sorts to become our highest-paid daytime broadcaster has hardly helped her. The £1 million a year* Countdown *poppet lost a flat by Tower Bridge after she was gazumped.*

Indian mutiny

BARONESS FLATHER has been reported to the police for threatening behaviour. An official complaint has been made against the Asian peeress, who resigned the Tory whip last week, by a Indian historian with whom she has argued. Kusoom Vagdama says she received a late-night phone call from Flather after opposing a Memorial Gate for Indian soldiers. Flather wants donors to be named on the gate, but Vagdama considers this vulgar. "Flather said, 'I'm going to get you one day. You have wrecked everything'," says Vagdama. "I didn't want to wait until she 'got me' so I called the police."

Police raised eyebrows at Flather's address (House of Lords). Flather says: "I was angry but I'm not going to bash her up. I'm the victim. She has a vendetta."



●*ALEXANDER McQUEEN (right) is confused. The spherical Givenchy bod is repelled by mens' obsession with Charles Atlas physiques. "I've just hired a personal trainer to keep me in shape," he offers, a shade optimistically.*

Club circuit

GASTROENTERITIS kept Ralph Fiennes from playing host at the RSC's *Dangerous Liaisons* party at Home House, the magnificent new haunt of Brian Clivaz and Richard Farleigh. Sinead Cusack rushed over in period costume from her Irish Castle to replace the ailing blade. Sinead spoke of her son, Sam, who is in India teaching the son of the Dalai Lama. The club has signed up a mixed bag: Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, Lord and Lady Linley, oh and Lenny Henry.



●*HE OF the proverbial lesbian Irish centre, Ken Livingstone, has fired a politically incorrect canon blast at the Emerald Isle. Asked by* The Irish Post *why more Irish aren't involved in British politics, he replied: "If Irish people want to get involved in politics, they should go back to Ireland." Goodnight to the London Irish vote.*

Dining out

POPPING over to Manhattan for supper over the weekend, I ran into Nicole Kidman and Iain Glen (shown) at a joint called Milo. The actors seemed to be gearing up for the transfer of their outré play, *The Blue Room*, from London. They ate lots of fruit, talked intensely and left in a limo. No wonder they act with such intensity.

●*AFTER my scoop about Geoffrey Robinson appearing in the* Yellow Pages *as a political consultant, his fellow ministerial Maxwell puppet, Helen Liddell, also appears under "parliamentary agents". Odd.*

Tally blow

A HUNT saboteur has been charged with causing cruelty to animals. And as a result the tradition of huntsmen blowing horns is under threat. The sab was apprehended after he blew a horn to throw the hounds off the scent.

The police promptly arrested him. Should the case result in a successful prosecution, huntsmen blowing their horns while chasing a fox could end up in court as well.



●*HE OF the proverbial lesbian Irish centre, Ken Livingstone, has fired a politically incorrect canon blast at the Emerald Isle. Asked by* The Irish Post *why more Irish aren't involved in British politics, he replied: "If Irish people want to get involved in politics, they should go back to Ireland." Goodnight to the London Irish vote.*

●*FORCED to explain his lateness to a committee meeting for the second week running, Peter Bradley, MP, spluttered: "It's the second Tuesday my partner and baby have locked themselves out of our flat." Hmm.*

JASPER GERARD

THE TIMES

ACK TO THE LAWYERS

ochet case will become no less controversial with time

use of his own parliamentary certain human rights organisa- k Straw decided yesterday to adition hearings against General to proceed. His decision ensures s saga will last for months if not The Home Secretary may feel that s deferred an embarrassing issue. It in truth become no less complex, in gal or political terms, for the delay.

The Home Secretary's options were contained and to some degree constrained by the 1989 Extradition Act. The terms of that legislation offered him relatively narrow territory on which to block an extradition request at this stage. Mr Straw may have felt that the law required him to certify that an extradition order could legally be made unless there were compelling reasons not to do so. He must believe that he has taken what may be considered the safest decision in a strict legal sense.

Mr Straw did, though, have some room for manoeuvre. The original provisional warrant upon which General Pinochet was arrested was, as the Law Lords noted despite their refusal to recognise the former dictator's claim to sovereign immunity, improperly drafted. The extraordinary allegation of genocide brought by Judge Garzon, the Spanish magistrate at the centre of this case, risked rendering that terrible crime ridiculous. Mr Straw effectively acknowledged this by excluding those charges in his ruling yesterday. Finally, the Home Secretary could have found compassionate grounds for quashing the warrants if he had wished.

A decision of this sort would without doubt have invited a firestorm of controversy. The Home Secretary could not have avoided the impression that he had placed diplomacy and expediency above all other factors. There would have been further legal not to mention political ramifications if the general had been allowed home. It might have been better to court that controversy now rather than risk the course of events that will follow.

Mr Straw may hope that the legal system might proceed in a manner that allows the general's reputation to be placed on trial and comprehensively shredded but does not ultimately lead to his departure in handcuffs for Spain. This would doubtless strike the Home Secretary as the most satisfactory of all options: offering those victimised under the general their forum but not ultimately endangering the character of Chile's democratic settlement.

The Government will be very fortunate indeed if this benign prospect materialises. It is more probable that a bitter legal campaign will be waged on many fronts by all sides. The links between Lord Hoffmann and Amnesty International — and whether the Law Lord should have resiled himself — will almost certainly be tested in court. Other countries and parties will doubtless seek to make representations. The general's health will become the subject of constant speculation. The whole affair will become an explosive aspect of Chile's presidential election next year. It will be a source of enormous instability for that country in the months to come.

At the end of all this the matter may, and in all probability will, once again come across the desk of the Home Secretary. At this final stage he would, as he may have calculated, have wider formal authority with which to allow Chile, not Spain, to determine the general's fate. This remains the best of several unattractive solutions to this conundrum. Mr Straw cannot know if or when he will be obliged to revisit this issue. Nor can he anticipate the wider legal, diplomatic and political context in which such a decision would be framed. He may come to regret this uncertainty.

GAMMA MINUS

Westminster Abbey is the great loser from the Neary affair

Distaste that his task should ever have been necessary colours the pages of Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle's meticulous account of events leading to the dismissal last April of Westminster Abbey's celebrated Organist and Master of the Choristers, Dr Martin Neary, and of his wife. Lord Jauncey's submission to the Queen, under whose jurisdiction this Royal Peculiar falls, is in formal terms a victory for the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr. It upholds the Dean's original claim that the Nearys were guilty of "breach of trust" so grave as to warrant summary dismissal. Yet the tale he unfolds, peppered with phrases such as "horrible misunderstanding" and "unhappy situation" is an indictment of the Abbey's slipshod, and eventually vindictively confrontational, management.

The core of this dispute, which as Lord Jauncey drily says ought to have been susceptible to "a rather less dramatic resolution", is now accepted by the Abbey as involving "impropriety and not dishonesty". It concerns an account, Neary Music, which the Nearys set up to manage payments for the choir's musical engagements outside the Abbey. Although this account was never explicitly sanctioned by the Abbey authorities, Lord Jauncey concludes from the conflicting, strikingly vague versions of what happened that Dr Neary might well have had the mistaken impression that he had Abbey approval.

Where he finds decisively against the Nearys is over the payment to Mrs Neary, through this account, of nearly £12,000 in undisclosed "fixing fees" for organising these engagements. Their failure to declare these "secret profits", he finds, "fatally undermined the relationship of trust and confidence which should have existed between them and the Abbey". The fact that for at least two years before the Dean dismissed the Nearys, the Abbey "had all the information which would have enabled them to find out" does not, in his view, alter the fact that the Nearys withheld facts that they should have volunteered.

Yet the Dean also comes badly out of this saga. He heard of the Neary fund a year before he took action. When asked why he never raised the matter directly with Dr Neary, he muttered something about being anxious to discourage gossip. Rightly dismissing this specious excuse, Lord Jauncey makes plain that open and frank discussion would have avoided gravely damaging publicity and produced an amicable settlement. As for the Dean's abrupt suspension of the Nearys in March, and the unfair, aggressive way in which disciplinary hearings were instituted, the appalled verdict of this investigation is that the Abbey's conduct "must score gamma minus on the scale of natural justice".

This tawdry business, which has cost both sides fortunes in legal fees, should in Frank Field's words have been "sorted out over a cup of tea". The picture that emerges of the Nearys is not of fraudsters, but of an unworldly couple who drifted into a business arrangement with only the haziest notion of what they were about. Dr Carr acted within his rights, but with crass insensitivity either to the Abbey's own share of blame, or to the conciliatory spirit which, along with justice, should distinguish church administration. As the enthusiastic proponent of changes aimed at "Recovering the Calm" of the Abbey, he should not so violently have disrupted it. This has been a disastrous, pointless, scandal. Dr Neary has paid a heavy price. The contentious Dr Carr should in Christian humility consider whether he too should not pay for his part in bringing this great house of prayer into public disrepute.

THE NEW DREIFUSS

A symbolic Swiss President at home and abroad

In ordinary circumstances the formal election of Switzerland's federal president would not be the cause of much international interest. It would not even be the subject of enormous enthusiasm within that country itself. The presidency is an institution of exceptionally modest powers, lasting but 12 months, and, by convention, rotating on the basis of seniority between the seven members of the federal council.

The elevation of Ruth Dreifuss to the presidency is different. As a woman and a Jew she is an extremely unusual figure in Swiss politics. At home it will be her gender at adds significance to her symbolic post.

r religion also affords Switzerland an additional opportunity to draw an overdue final line under controversies that have badly damaged her standing abroad.

The Swiss are famed advocates of decentralisation and direct democracy. Most political authority in the country lies not with the federal council or the federal parliament but with 26 cantons, more than 3000 communes, and individual citizens through the frequent use of referendum. In one aspect of democracy, however, Switzerland ranks last among developed nations. It finally conceded votes to women at the national level in 1971. The canton of Appenzell Innerhoden (population, 15,000) resisted female franchise in local elections until 1990. The only other woman before Ms Dreifuss to serve on the federal council was removed on charges (later disproved) of violating the Official Secrets Act before she could assume the presidency.

The election of Ms Dreifuss is also a proud moment for Switzerland's small Jewish community. It has been caught in the crossfire in the dispute between Swiss banks and those acting for concentration camp victims and their families whose assets were improperly retained after the Second World War. Switzerland's complacent and insensitive attitude at the outset of this argument turned international opinion against her. It took the threat of economic sanctions in the United States to turn apologies into real compensation. The $1.25 billion agreement reached in August offers the chance of a settlement.

That deal has not yet been delivered. It remains vulnerable to assault from some Jewish critics who think it inadequate in scope and shape and also from a nationalist backlash within Switzerland. The issue is likely to become an emotive and unpredictable element of federal elections next year. Other crucial parts of the package must be approved in what will be a closely contested referendum. Ms Dreifuss as President may have little direct influence over these events. She can become a powerful symbol of Switzerland's willingness to deal with its past.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street. London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Quality-control' of unique gift of life

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir, There are better ethical arguments against the cloning of human beings than Simon Jenkins ("One me is not enough", December 9; reports, December 8 and 9) seems to think.

Every ethical system rests on some perception, no doubt in large measure socially conditioned, of what human beings are. This is why those who wish to destroy some class of people begin by so changing that perception as to depersonalise their victims.

Changes also take place in the natural course of social evolution, and it is the task of the ethicist to identify and evaluate these.

So what effects might cloning have on our general perceptions of human beings? Reproductive technology is already slowly pushing us in the direction of perceiving babies as commodities, to be acquired as of right and subject to quality control, rather than as amazing gifts to be accepted and respected for what they are in their uniqueness.

While there are obvious things to be said in favour of such technologies, there are already legitimate fears among disabled people about how those who have escaped quality control might be perceived in the future.

Cloning would take the trend towards "commodification" to its logical conclusion. To be able to make decisions about the complete specification of another human being would radically change social concepts about what persons are, and about the relationships which ought to obtain between them.

The counter-argument, that parents and teachers already try to shape the characters of children, carries no weight because this educational role already implies the recognition of the child as an independent person. To treat the genetic core of a person as a manipulable object, on the other hand, would be to compromise their individual otherness at its very root.

The manufacture of cloned human tissue may seem a very small and innocuous step in this direction. What happens, though, when the growth of new organs becomes a possibility, and the best way to grow them is perceived to be inside a human body, albeit one genetically engineered, perhaps, to be brainless?

I am glad that there is a determination to draw clear lines between what is and is not morally acceptable. But there also needs to be some detailed thinking now about why it is important for those lines to be held.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HABGOOD,
18 The Mount,
Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7ND.
December 9.

From Mr Alan Tonkyn

Sir, John Harris, a professor of medical ethics at Manchester University, has argued (report, December 8) that the destruction of cloned embryos in the pursuit of human tissue production is no more than an extension of the gift by a sibling of an organ to save a brother or sister.

I am appalled that an "expert" in ethics can see no difference between one of the highest expressions of love and self-sacrifice and the dehumanising of a human embryo into a mere tissue factory.

The one shows the human being as indeed made in God's image, exercising free will to serve and save another; the other treats him or her as a piece of machinery to be used and thrown away.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TONKYN,
35 Eastern Avenue,
Reading, Berkshire RG1 5RX.
December 9.

From Ms Jean McLeod Forbes

Sir, What is possible becomes practicable. What is practicable becomes permissible.

Perhaps the genie is now well and truly out of its bottle.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN McLEOD FORBES,
93 Stonebury Avenue,
Eastern Green, Coventry CV5 7NY.
December 9.

Dome without books

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, A book-free Dome (report, December 5)? Surely Tyndale's 1526 translation of the New Testament should be the centrepiece exhibit in the Millennium Dome.

This one small book, 85 years prior to the Authorised Version, giving us the glory of our language from Shakespeare to the writers of today, giving us the words and phrases which people still use in conversation, making the Bible accessible to "the boy who drives the plough" (as Tyndale put it), deserves pride of place.

Our greatest contribution to world culture over the centuries is not Britain's painting or music but our literature. We have a double chance. As Britons of all religions or none to celebrate proudly our heritage — as Christians to mark the millennium in an appropriate way.

Yours sincerely,
ROWLAND WHITEHEAD,
Sutton House,
Chiswick Mall, W4 2PR.
December 7.

Pentagon search for nuclear 'bug'

From Mr Michael Ryan Kraig

Sir, The recent Nato offer to Russia of co-operation on "millennium bug" problems in nuclear missiles (report, December 3) is a necessary step towards addressing Y2K (year 2000) vulnerabilities. However, Nato's proposal does not address the dangers of US-Russian forces maintaining high-alert status.

Roughly 4,000 warheads are in "ready to launch" mode. In the US, the three required steps for launch can be implemented in one minute or less. Presumably, these practices are not viewed as dangerous because US systems will be fixed, and the sharing of US early-warning data will preclude a Russian launch based on the malfunction of surveillance systems. On these assumptions, military officials have rejected measures that would increase the required time for launch of missiles.

In reality, the whole of the Pentagon's Y2K programme is plagued by management failures. It has recently admitted that many critical systems are at least two months behind schedule, and that some will not be repaired until mid to late 1999 (if at all).

An October 30 audit by the Inspector General revealed that the Defense Special Weapons Agency systematically misrepresented Y2K test data for three critical systems. Although the agency has since argued that it failed to do necessary tests out of ignorance, this admission of blatant ineptitude hardly bolsters confidence in the state of nuclear systems.

To quote one high-level Pentagon Y2K manager: "There aren't as many people lying to us as there used to be."

Sincerely,
MICHAEL R. KRAIG
(Visiting Fellow),
British American Security Information Council,
1900 L Street, NW, Suite 401,
Washington DC 20036.
December 4.

Plan to alter system of legal fees

From Mr John Beale

Sir, Oliver Gravell (letter, December 8) states with reference to no win, no fee in family law: "The danger in these proposals must be that initially clients will be given a low expectation of what they may achieve."

From my experience of family solicitors this would be the perfect starting point. Under the existing system solicitors often encourage their clients to fight over every last morsel of the matrimonial assets, with the result that they end up with nothing or very little, together with a substantial legal bill.

Perhaps a low starting point would encourage individuals to ditch their solicitors and enter into private agreements with their ex-partners, or, failing this, to consider acting for themselves. Families Need Fathers has been advocating this approach for 24 years and provides a national network of support to divorcing and separating parents.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BEALE,
1 Elmcroft, 4 Stanhope Road,
Highgate, N6 5LR.
December 8.

From Mr James F. Warren

Sir, The Government's enthusiasm to make the legal system more accessible to potential litigants risks going where even American lawyers fear to tread. The precise rules vary from state to state, but contingency fee arrangements are illegal throughout the United States for criminal defence work and for divorce, alimony, or child-support cases.

Such arrangements are viewed as contrary to public policy, because they create perverse incentives for lawyers to represent clients in ways that may frustrate rather than promote a just outcome. Permitting conditional fee arrangements in the UK for criminal and domestic work will have the same consequences.

Yours etc,
JAMES F. WARREN,
1420 33rd Street, NW,
Washington DC 20007.
jwarren@shearman.com
December 4.

From Mr Geyve Walker

Sir, Legal aid defence lawyers are presently paid according to the number of cases they take. There is even some limited opportunity for uplifting fees in particularly difficult cases. In short, our pay is determined by our performance.

The Lord Chancellor is determined to sweep this away and bind us to a fixed-sum contract, the terms of which he claims will be negotiated with individual firms but which will in fact be imposed upon us by the Legal Aid Board. The existing element of performance-related pay will be lost.

Strange that whilst the Lord Chancellor travels down this road he will meet his colleague David Blunkett coming the other way. The latter seems determined to abolish fixed rates of pay for schoolteachers and introduce a system of performance-related remuneration for the first time.

Yours faithfully,
GEYVE WALKER,
Arnison & Company (solicitors),
1 St Andrew's Place,
Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7AW.
December 9.

Hand fisted

From Mr Kenneth Rose

Sir, Baron Guillaume Dupuytren, far from being a "winemaker" (letter, December 2), was the celebrated surgeon of the Paris hospital, Hôtel-Dieu, who diagnosed, cured and gave his name to a malformation of the fingers.

It was the first patient whom Dupuytren treated, a wine merchant, who may have acquired his contracture "as a result of hammering home wine-barrel bungs with the palm of his hand". His second patient was a cab driver who was suspected of gripping the reins too tightly; hence the popular French name for the ailment, *la maladie des cochers*.

Dupuytren's contracture is nowadays thought to be an inherited, not an occupational disease.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH ROSE,
38 Brunswick Gardens, W8 4AL.
December 2.

From Mr Paul Ridgway

Sir, I believe that Dupuytren's contracture was at one time known as pew opener's palsy, as the inwardly turned, claw-like hand evolved from many years of taking tips at the same time as the latch was opened for the well-off occupants of box pews in the churches of yore.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL RIDGWAY,
3 The Green,
Ketton, Stamford,
Lincolnshire PE9 3RA.
pridgway@globalnet.co.uk
December 2.

From Mr John M. Singleton

Sir, Dupuytren's contracture, which is not rare, is more common in certain groups.

Apart from its association with alcoholism, it appears to be slightly more common in those whose work involves gripping tools, especially those that vibrate — hence Thatcher (handbag), Reagan (reins) and Gower (bat).

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. SINGLETON,
Les Chounets,
Les Amourenes,
83690 Salernes, Var, France.
December 2.

Royal remedy

From Mr James Toner

Sir, There was no "outbreak" of Legionnaires' disease at Buckingham Palace (report, later editions, December 4). The bacterium *Legionella pneumophila* was found in a certain part of the water supply.

Once people become infected by the bacterium then there is an outbreak of the disease. There is a difference.

Yours faithfully,
J. TONER,
44 Kersfield House,
Kersfield Road, Putney, SW15 3HJ.

Healthy alternative

From Mrs Ingrid Ransome

Sir, I see that shopping "damages men's health" (report, later editions, December 2). My husband's accompanying me Christmas shopping once a year doesn't do much for my health either. I've now found a cure — I leave him at home.

Yours faithfully,
INGRID RANSOME,
12 Grieves Court,
Stanway, Colchester CO3 5UT.
December 4.

Feminine angels

From Mr F. W. Edwards

Sir, I entirely endorse Mrs Patricia Fletcher's observation on the performance of girls as angels in Nativity plays (letter, December 5: see also letters, November 16, 20, 24), but in all my experience of schools I have never seen the archangel played other than by a boy.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK EDWARDS
(Regional Director Wales,
Independent Schools Information Service),
3 Heol Crwys, Fishguard SA65 9EJ.
December 5.

From Mrs Brenda Bishop

Sir, Whatever the sex of angels, assuming they have vertebrate anatomy, how can they have wings *and* arms?

Yours faithfully,
BRENDA BISHOP,
The Ropewalk, Hauxton Road,
Little Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5HJ.
December 5.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Proud pensioners and self-reliance

From Dr Gary Kitchen

Sir, Your front page story today, headed "Proud pensioners refuse state cash", confirmed that Britain's pensioners want proper state pensions rather than more means-tested income support.

Low take-up of income support is not a new phenomenon. What is new is the Government's recognition that, despite publicity campaigns, it will remain low. The costing of income support for the next three years, it is officially admitted, assumes that most of the million pensioners who do not claim now will still not have claimed by 2002.

The National Pensioners Convention has campaigned for many years for marked improvement to the state retirement pension and a restoration of the earnings link broken in 1980. It is now challenging the Government to make good its so-called minimum income guarantee of £75 a week for a single pensioner from next April by raising the basic pension to that level.

This will still be far from adequate but will at least be a step in the right direction.

Yours faithfully,
GARY KITCHEN
(National Organiser),
National Pensioners Convention,
47 Chalton Street, NW1 1HY.
December 7.

From Mr Nicholas Wibberley

Sir, It will be interesting to see what advertising campaign ministers come up with to strip self-reliant pensioners of their pride and herd them into the dependency culture.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WIBBERLEY,
East Whiddon, Landkey Road,
Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9LA.
whiddon@aol.com
December 7.

Silver surfers

From Mrs Kristin Thompson

Sir, It would have been pleasant, on behalf of the vast number of female silver surfers, to admonish Dr Hugh Saxton for referring to "The Old Boy Network" (letter, December 3).

Unfortunately, the English language is as gender-biased as Dr Saxton's letter. "The Old Girl Network" does not have the same ring at all.

Yours faithfully,
KRISTIN THOMPSON,
5 The Leyes,
Deddington OX15 0TX.
op@kristin.demon.co.uk
December 3.

From Mrs Georgette Behar

Sir, Last night I telephoned my daughter and told her that I had had a severe breakdown. In view of the fact that I am 80 years old, she expressed great anxiety and concern.

However, I reassured her by saying that fortunately I had sorted the problem out with "Scandisk".

Sincerely,
GEORGETTE BEHAR,
54 Hanover Gate Mansions,
Park Road, NW1 4SN.
georgettebehar@compuserve.com
December 3.

Cruelty to moles?

From Mr Bert Staddon

Sir, Mrs Denise Dew-Hughes asks if a recorded message from a PR company might repel moles (letter, December 2).

It might; but then again the moles might learn how to convince her to put up with them, and she would be worse off.

Yours faithfully,
BERT STADDON,
312 Bayberry Lane, Langley,
British Columbia V3A 8M7, Canada.
bstad@mortimer.com
December 2.

From Mr Paul Thomas

Sir, I had a problem with garden moles some three years ago while living in Southend.

I fitted an extension from my mega bass CD system to the lawn and piped music to the miscreant's lair. As I recall, The Beatles, Rachmaninov and George Melly were hopelessly ineffective, but Lulu worked.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL THOMAS,
St Edmund's College,
Cambridge CB3 0BN.
December 2.

Apostrophe shortage

From Mrs Edward Smith

Sir, Perhaps the apostrophe is missing from Marks & Spencer's "Seasons Greetings" not because of obstinacy, as Mr John Cook believes (letter, November 27), but because it was needed for their display of CD's.

Yours,
SUZAN D. SMITH,
9 Treesdale Road,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire HG2 0LX.
November 27.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 9: His Excellency Mr William V.S. Bull, was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of Liberia to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy:

Mr Ishmael E.B. Grant (Minister Counsellor), Mr Phillip Gbadyu (Minister Counsellor for Press and Cultural Affairs) and Mr Rudolf P. von Vallmoos (First Secretary and Consul). Mr Christopher Ham (Chief Clerk for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was present.

Mrs Cecelia Freeman Bull was also received by The Queen.

General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointments as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Colonel Commandant Adjutant General's Corps.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Peter Spiceley (San Jose), Mr Christopher Hulse (Berne) and Mr David Logan (Ankara).

Mrs Spiceley and Mrs Logan were also received by The Queen.

Mr Robert Harris was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor to Anguilla.

Mrs Harris was received by Her Majesty.

The Queen received His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, accompanied by Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and gave tea at Buckingham Palace.

By Command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon Her Excellency Mrs Tuelonyana Ditlhabi-Oliphant, Stratford Place, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to Her Excellency upon relinquishing her appointment as High Commissioner for Botswana in London.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, this morning presented The Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, today attended Receptions for Young People who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, at St James's Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral, later attended The Honourable Company of Master Mariners Lunch onboard *HQS Wellington* to celebrate its 50th Anniversary of being berthed at Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, London.

His Royal Highness, Senior Colonel, this evening attended the Household Division Massed Bands Concert, at the Royal Festival Hall, London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 9: The Prince of Wales this morning opened St Thomas' Cardiac Wing, Lambeth Palace Road, London.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon attended a Prince's Trust Conference at Lewisham College, London.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended the Ulysses Trust Reception at The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 9: The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, this morning attended the National Olympic Committee meeting at the Town Hall, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire (the Earl of Scarbrough).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the University of Sheffield's School of Nursing and Midwifery, St George's Hospital, Winter Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

The Princess Royal afterwards opened Joint Replacement Instrumentation (Ceramics) Limited, 117 Leigh Street, Attercliffe Common, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Her Royal Highness, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, this evening attended a Reception to launch the Crime Concern's Membership Scheme at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 9: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Mexican Society, this morning received Sir Roger Hervey upon relinquishing his appointment as Chairman and Mr Ian Barnett upon assuming the appointment.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, St Bartholomew's Hospital, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this evening attended a Concert in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great followed by a Reception in the Great Hall to mark the 875th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Priory and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 9: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning visited the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on Salisbury Plain.

His Royal Highness, Patron, European Union Baroque Orchestra, this evening attended a concert and dinner at The Banqueting House, Whitehall, London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

December 9: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, London SE26.

Susan Barrantes

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Susan Barrantes will be held at 11.30am at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday, December 15, 1998 - no morning dress or flowers. Donations to the Susan Barrantes Memorial Fund, 10 Wyndham Place, London W1H 1AS.

The Henry Smith Charities

Mr Brian McGeough retires as Treasurer of The Henry Smith Charities on December 31, 1998, having served nine years in that office and seventeen years as Clerk to the Charities.

The Trustees have appointed Miss Judith Portrait as the new Treasurer with effect from January 1, 1999. She is a senior City charity and trust lawyer, who also acts as legal adviser and trustee of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts.

Church of Scotland

Appointments

Induction

The Rev Gordon F C Jenkins, to North, Dunfermline.

Translations

The Rev Michael V A Mair, from Holburn West, Aberdeen to Craigiebank, Dundee linked with Douglas and Angus.

Ordination and introduction

The Rev James R McDonald, as Chaplain/Development Officer, Lodging House Mission.

Introductions

The Rev Marjory Macaskill, as Chaplain to Strathclyde University.

Retirements

The Rev James Ross, from Anderson, Kilsyth.

The Rev Evan J Ross, from Mossgreen and Crossgates linked with West, Cowdenbeath.

The Rev David L Wright, from St Columba's, Stornoway.



MARTIN BEDDALL

National Gallery staff moving *The Abduction of Helen by Paris* which has recently been attributed to Zanobi Strozzi, a pupil of Fra Angelico (c1400-55). The picture, in the gallery's collection since 1857, will form part of an exhibition *Zanobi Strozzi: In the Light of Fra Angelico* which opens today and continues until March 7.

Royal engagements

The Queen will open the restored Sun Pavilion in Valley Gardens, Harrogate, at 10.30; will walk the pedestrianised area of Oxford Street at 11.05; and and visit Harrogate Theatre during the dress rehearsal for "Aladdin at 11.10. Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, she will visit Harrogate District Hospital, Lancaster Park Road, to mark its completion, at 11.40. Later, she will visit Farrah's toffee factory, Back of Chatsworth Grove, at 2.15; and will visit the Northern Police Convalescent Home, Harlow Moor Road, to mark its centenary, at 2.45.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit GSPK Electronics, Manes Lane, Knaresborough, at 10.35; will visit Knaresborough Working Men's Club, Kirkgate, at 11.25; and will visit the Northern Police Convalescent Home, St Andrew's, Harlow Moor Road, Harrogate, at 2.15.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Prince's Trust, will present the Prince of Wales Awards 1998 at St James's Palace at 3.00; will attend a reception to mark the centenary of the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, at 6.20; and will attend the film premiere of *The Mask of Zorro* at The Odeon, Leicester Square at 8.15.

The Princess Royal will open the Welcare Community Projects' Accord Centre, 292/294 Kilburn High Road, London NW6, at 9.45; will attend a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, at Westminster Abbey at 11.55; as president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend the meeting of the Board of Trustees at N M Rothschild and Sons, New Court, St Swithin's Lane, London EC4, at 2.00 and will host a reception at Buckingham Palace at 5.15; and as patron, the Cranfield Trust, will attend a dinner at the Australian High Commission at 7.00.

Princess Margaret will attend a Christmas luncheon in aid of Headway National Head Injuries Association at the Royal Lancaster Hotel at 12.30.

The Duke of Kent will visit the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils — Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, at 11.00; will attend the opening ceremony to launch the new facilities of Powderject Pharmaceuticals, 4 Robert Robinson Avenue, Oxford Science Park, at 1.40; and will visit Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust, Slade House, Horspath Driftway, Headington, at 2.35.

Receptions

The White Ensign Association

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Fleet, attended a reception of the White Ensign Association held on Tuesday at Buckingham Palace to mark the 40th anniversary of the association. A host of supporters, councillors and senior officers from the Royal Navy amended. Guests of the Council of the Association included:

The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, the Second Sea Lord, Admiral Sir John and Lady Brigstocke, the Commander-in-Chief, Fleet Admiral and Mrs N.R. Essenhigh, the Commandant General Royal Marines, Major-General and Mrs R. Fulton, the Flag Officer Naval Air, Rear-Admiral and and Mrs I. Henderson and the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff, Rear-Admiral R.T.R. Phillips. Council members and Officers of the Association and their ladies included the President, Captain Sir Donald Gosling, RNR, the Chairman, Admiral Sir Michael and Lady Layard, Mr and Mrs John Andrewes, Sir Michael and Lady Best, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry and Lady Beverley, Mr and Mrs Richard Biffa, Admiral Sir Kenneth and Lady Eaton, Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Herbert, Mr and Mrs Henry Lambert, Sir Patrick and Lady Lawrence, Mr and Mrs Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain, Sir Roger and Lady Neville, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian and Lady Oswald, Sir Patrick and Lady Sergeant, Mr and Mrs Roger Taylor, Captain and Mrs David Wilson, Captain and Mrs John Roberts and Major David Constance and Mrs Bryant-Rubio.

Mr and Mrs Anthony Alexander, Mr and Mrs Deke Arlon, Mr David Barclay, Mr Frederick Barclay, Sir Christopher Benson, Dr and Mrs Julian Blogh, Commodore and Mrs Paul Bossier, Mr and Mrs John Bromley, Commodore Barry Bryant and Ms Tracey Smith, Mr and Mrs Maurice Buxton, Mr and Mrs John Caulcutt, Commodore and Mrs Anthony Chilton, Dr and Mrs Kenneth Chrystie, Sir Michael and Lady Cobham, Mr and Mrs Guy Dawson, Sir John and Lady Detlow, Mr and Mrs Graham Dowson, Mr and Mrs Maldwin Drummond, Mr and Mrs Graeme Dunlop, Mr and Mrs Raymond Durrant, Sir John and Lady Egan, Mr and Mrs John Flack, Mr and Mrs Roy Gardner, Mr and Mrs Brian George, Mr and Mrs Joe Goodman, Mr and Mrs Robin Gowland, Mr Norman Grundon and Ms Grundon, Mr Frank Hacken-Jones, Mr and Mrs Don Hanson, Sir Ernest and Lady Harrison, Colonel and Mrs Stephen Hartnell, Ms Jaime Hearn, Mr and Mrs Ronald Hobson, Commodore and Mrs Laurie Hopkins, Mr and Mrs William Hughes, Mr and Mrs Peter Insull, Mrs Noelle Irvine, Mr and Mrs Alan Jones, Mr and Mrs Tom Kenwright, Mr and Mrs George Laurenzi, Mr and Mrs Andrew Love, Mr and Mrs Bob Mackenzie, Mr and Mrs Neil McGrigor, Captain and Mrs Jamie Miller, Mr and Mrs John Murphy, Mr and Mrs Brian Nicholson, Mr and Mrs Peter Nicholson, Warrant Officer and Mrs Dennis O'Keefe, Mr and Mrs Robert Pearman, Mr and Mrs Michael Pemberton, Mr and Mrs Tony Pryor, Mr and Mrs Cecil Redfern, Sir Tim Rice and Mrs Eileen Heisilt, Miss Belinda Round-Turner, Captain Roger Royle, Mr and Mrs Richard Sheppard, Mr Richard Sissons, Admiral Sir Jock and Lady Slater, Mr and Mrs John Sunley, Mr and Mrs Brian Swabey, Mr and Mrs Jimmy Tarbuck, Commodore and Mrs Simon Thornewill, Mr and Mrs Hugh Tidbury, Mr and Mrs Hugh Try, Captain and Mrs Philip Wilcocks, Mr and Mrs David Wilkinson, Lieutenant Commander and Mrs John Wiseman, Mr and Mrs Roger Wood, Miss Anne Yusef.

The White Ensign Association with offices in *HMS Belfast* was set up in June 1958 by Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma as a leading Naval charity to assist all serving and retired Naval personnel and their dependants. The Association also acts as the link between the Royal Navy, the City of London, commerce and industry.

HM Government

Mrs Barbara Roche, Minister for Small Firms, Department of Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House to mark the inaugural meeting of the Egyptian British Business Council.

The Reserve Forces Ulysses Trust

The Prince of Wales attended a reception held at the Duke of York's Headquarters last night to mark his first five years of patronage by meeting members of the Volunteers of the RNR, RMR, TA, RAuxAF and Cadets of the Services, and to thank the donors.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giovanni Guarini, poet, Ferrara, Italy, 1538; John Bradshaw, president of the judges at the trial of King Charles I, Stockport, 1602; Thomas Holcroft, dramatist, London, 1745; George Shaw, naturalist, Bierton, Buckinghamshire, 1751; Cesar Franck, composer, Liege, 1822; Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1830; Adolf Loos, architect, Brno, Austria, 1870; Harold Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis, Field Marshal, Governor-General of Canada 1946-52, London, 1891.

DEATHS: Paolo Uccello, painter, Florence, 1475; Edmund Gunter, mathematician, London, 1626; Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount Hill, general, 1842; Alfred Nobel, industrialist and founder of the prizes bearing his name, San Remo, 1896; Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1865-85, Sunningdale, Berkshire, 1911; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect, London, 1928; Luigi Pirandello, dramatist and novelist, Nobel laureate 1934, Rome, 1936; Damon Runyon, short story writer, 1946; Henry Cowell, composer, Shady, New York, 1965; Otis Redding, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, Lake Monona, near Madison, Wisconsin, 1967; Jascha Heifetz, violinist, Los Angeles, 1987.

Civil engineer Robert Thompson patented pneumatic tyres, London, 1845.

Cuba became an independent state, 1898.

The first Nobel Prizes were awarded, 1901.

Birthdays today

Judge Shirley Anwyl, QC, 58; Sir John Birt, Director-General, BBC, 54; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor and director, 38; Sir John Collins, chief executive, Vestey Group of Companies, 57; Professor B.W. Cunliffe, FBA, former president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 59; Mrs Ann Gloag, co-founder, Stagecoach Holdings, 56; Lord Harris of High Cross, 74; Mr Nicholas Henderson, racehorse trainer, 48; Lord Jopling, 68; Sir David Kelly, former president, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 62; Miss J.M. Kenworthy, Principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 65; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash player, 35; Mr Nicolas Kynaston, organist, 57; Mr James McAdam, chairman, Signet Group, 68; Mr Raphael Makhouf, sculptor, 61; Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman, Lloyds Bank, 70; Professor Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 51; Sir John Peel, former Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen, 94; Mr T.S. Roberts, former chairman, Milford Haven Conservancy Board, 87; Sir Angus Stirling, former Director-General, National Trust, 65; Mr C.W. Turner, former Rector, Glasgow Academy, 65; Mr M.T. Wright, former director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 62.

Luncheons

Company of Master Mariners

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Company of Master Mariners, presided, assisted by Captain A.D. Munro, Master, at a luncheon held yesterday on board *HQS Wellington* to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the ship at her berth at Temple Stairs.

HM Government

Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of Mr Frank de Grave, Netherlands Minister for Defence.

English-Speaking Union

Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, was the speaker at a luncheon of the English-Speaking Union held yesterday at Dartmouth House, Baroness Brigstocke, chairman, presided. Mr Richard Guay, Delegate General of Quebec, also spoke.

Appointments

Mr John Martin to be High Commissioner to Cyprus from February 1999. He succeeds Mr David Madden who is to be Ambassador to Greece from May 1999 in succession to Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith who is retiring.

Forthcomi marriage

Dr S.H.C. Anderson and Miss F.J. Braid

The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Anderson, of Kloof, Natal, South Africa, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Steven Braid, of Whitecraigs, Glasgow.

Mr W.R. Flint and Miss E.L. Chapman

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Flint, of Bisley, Gloucestershire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Chapman, of Cliftonville, Kent.

Mr C. Mackenzie and Miss K. Cecil

The engagement is announced between Craig, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Mackenzie, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Katie, daughter of Mr Henry Cecil and Mrs Julie Cecil, of Newmarket, Suffolk.

Mr A.T.C. Price and Miss M. Whitaker

The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr John Price and the late Mrs Jill Price, of Pitsford, Northamptonshire, and Michelle, younger daughter of Mr Jim Whitaker and Mrs Avril Fletcher, both of Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Mr L.N. Quinnell and Miss E.M.K. Ryder

The engagement is announced between Leigh, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Quinnell, of Hayes, Middlesex, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Ryder, of Walmer, Kent.

Mr E.L. Murphy and Miss K.L. H

The engagement between Leo, elder Mr Ted Murphy ar Stepanek, and st Josef Stepanek, Cheshire, and Ka youngest daughter Mrs Trevan Hingst hurst, West Sussex.

Mr T.C.H. Sanderson and Miss C.L. Robinso

The engagement is a between Tom, son of Mr J. Sanderson, of Beachs Norfolk, and Caroline, daug Mr and Mrs J.D. Robinson, Yaxley, Peterborough.

Mr A.L. Warsap and Miss K.A. Hyde

The engagement is announced between Andrew, twin son of Brigadier and Mrs Alan Warsap, of St Margaret's, Herefordshire, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hyde, of Compton Martin, Somerset.

Marriage

Mr D. Silver and Miss K.J. Brookes

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 5, at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, between Mr Damian Silver, son of Mr and Mrs Ivan Silver, of New Milton, Hampshire, and Miss Katherine Brookes, daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Andrew Brookes, of Covent Garden, London.

Dinners

Law Society

Mr Michael Mathews, President of the Law Society, with the Vice-President and Council gave a dinner last night at Law Society Hall. The Master of the Rolls, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, the Leader of the House of Commons, the Solicitor-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions were among the guests.

Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers

Mr William A. Warbey, Master of the Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers, assisted by the Wardens, presided at the Christmas court dinner and festival of carols held last night at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Professor Malcolm Troup, Master of the Musicians' Company, was the guest speaker.

During the evening, the Master presented the Company's Vacation Fellowship for a Royal School of Mines Student to Mr Bikiron Banerjee of Imperial College. Dr David Eastham, President of the Institute of Metal Finishing, and Ms Anne Chapman, secretary general, and representatives of the tin and wire industries' associations were among the guests.

Marylebone Cricket Club

Mr Dennis Silk was in the Chair at a Club Dinner held at Lord's last night. Dr Gerald Howat proposed the toast to "Cricket", and Mr Silk responded.

University news

Oxford

Queen's College

Diana R. Paton (BA Warwick, MA Yale) Yale University has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship in Modern History from October 1.

Cambridge

Queens' College

M.J. Milgate, MEc (Sydney), MA (Essex), PhD, has been appointed Senior Tutor of Queens' College from October 1, 1999.

Corpus Christi College

P.A. Katumian, MA (Calicut), MPhil, PhD has been elected into a Class F Fellowship in accordance with Ordinance D2 from January 1, 1999; Sir Gordon Wolstenholme and Mr J. Farman have been elected into Class G Fellowship in accordance with Ordinance D2 from November 27.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Allan Campbell-Wilson, Vicar, Middlesbrough St John the Evangelist (York), to be Vicar, Cayton with Eastfield (same diocese).

The Rev Martin Charles, Priest-in-Charge, Higham-on-the-Hill with Fenny Drayton and Witherley (Leicester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Breedon-on-the-Hill cum Isley Walton and Worthington with Newbold and Griffydam (same diocese).

The Rev Barry Coker, Vicar, Stroud and Uplands with Slad (Gloucester), to be also Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral (same diocese).

The Rev Clive Duxbury, Priest-in-Charge, Bury St Paul (Manchester), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Bury, St Thomas, St George, and Christ the King (same diocese).

The Rev Tim Gill, Priest-in-Charge, Sculcoates St Paul with Christ Church and St Silas, and Priest-in-Charge, Hull St Mary Sculcoates (York), to be Vicar, York St Luke (same diocese).

The Rev Paul Gully, Curate, Radcliffe St Thomas and St John (Manchester), to be Team Vicar, New Bury (same diocese).

The Rev Harry Hall, Vicar, Sutterton Group (Lincoln), to be Vicar, Barnsley St Edward the Confessor (Wakefield).

The Rev Graeme Hancocks, Trust Chaplain, Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust (Portsmouth), to be Hospital Chaplain, Trafford General Hospital (Manchester).

The Rev Dr Michael Harrison, Chaplain, Bradford University, and Chaplain, Bradford and Ilkley Community College (Bradford), to be Priest-in-Charge, Eltham Holy Trinity (Southwark).

The Rev Dr June Hughman, Curate, Woking Christ Church, and Chaplain, Woking Town Centre (Guildford), to be Vicar, Croydon Christ Church, Broad Green (Southwark).

The Rev Frank Yu-Chi Hung, Vicar, Hatcham St James, and part-time Chaplain, Goldsmith's College (Southwark), to be Chaplain, South Bank University (same diocese).

The Rev Gary Lawson, Vicar, Wythenshawe St Richard of Chichester (Manchester), to be Chaplain, Bolton Colleges (same diocese).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will give everyone a due reward. Matthew 16 : 27.

BIRTHS

BLACKWOOD - To Caroline (née Whitfield) and Clive, a daughter, Phillipa Romilly Margaret, on 8th December - A sister for Eleanor.

BLACK - Andrew, Sharon and Annabel welcome Angus Henry Merrington, born 8th December 1998.

COTTON - On 1st December 1998, to Kirsty (née McCulloch) and Charles, a daughter, Deborah Crichton.

CRAWFURD - On 7th December to Amy (née Villiers-Smith) and Edward, a girl, Violet Amy Esther Payne, a sister for Emma and Georgina.

HALL - On November 11th to April (née Bennett) and Matthew, a son, Edward Francis Sunderland.

HURD - On November 18th in Amman, Jordan to Siân (née Aubrey) and Thomas a son Sebastian Harry Bartholomew Aubrey.

KENT - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital to Victoria (née Lawrence) and David, a daughter, Roberta Rose.

KNOX - On 1st December to Judy (née Rothenberg) and John, a son, William Graeme Robert.

KRAUS - On December 8th at The Portland Hospital to Suzette and Jeffrey, a daughter, Juliet Noelle, a sister for Amanda.

LEE - On December 6th at The Portland Hospital to Shelly and Don, a daughter, Alexandra Hope, a sister for Taylor and Kyra.

BIRTHS

LINFORTH - On Thursday December 3rd to Kate (née Baily) and Adrian, a beautiful son, Noah Arthur. 9lbs 4ozs.

METTER - On December 5th at The Portland Hospital to Jane and David, a son, Guy Edward, a brother for James Henry and Clara.

MURPHY - On November 25th at The Portland Hospital to Mandy (née Dawson) and Timothy, a daughter, Marion Margery.

PAINE - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital to Julie (née Ramshaw) and Adrian, a son, Hugo William Edward.

POLLINGTON - On Saturday December 5th 1998 to Antonia (née Turnbull) and Sebastian, a son, Tom Anthony.

ROSE - On December 5th 1998 at The Portland Hospital to Leslie (née Curtis) and Andrew, a daughter, Aimee Corinne, a sister for Sammy.

SCOTT-DEMPSTER - On December 6th to Milly (née Lockhart Smith) and Robert, a son, Lorne Robert.

THOMAS - On December 7th 1998 to Belinda (née Hall) and Peter, beautiful twin girls, Laura Harriet and Ellen Louise.

WALKER - On November 28th to Legge (née Tulloch) and Jamie, a daughter, Chloe Mary Rose.

DEATHS

AL KADHIMI - Rabab Abdel Mohsen daughter of Abdel Mohsen Al Kadhimi, the Arab Poet, beloved mother of Lubna and of the late Mohsen Chadirchi on Wednesday 9th December at the Royal Free Hospital Hampstead. Funeral on Friday 11th December from the Regents Park Mosque at noon.

BRAMMA - Christine, 85, widow of Fred and mother of Harry. Peacefully on Tuesday December 8th, funeral at St Paul's Church, Shipley, West Yorkshire on Wednesday December 16th at 2.30 pm followed by cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Paul's Church, Shipley c/o Rev. C. Penfold, 47 Kirkgate, Shipley BD18 3EH.

BROCKMAN - Ivy Muriel on December 5th at Warren Lodge Care Home, Finchampstead. Much loved mother of Christopher, mother-in-law of Carol and widow of the late William Henry. Cremation at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Bracknell on Wednesday 16th December at 11.30am.

CAPON - Rev. Canon Martin, peacefully aged 89 in Exmouth. Missionary and Chaplain at Prince of Wales School, Kenya. Funeral 11.00am on Saturday 12th December at Diptford, Devon.

CHALMERS - Nancy, peacefully on Tuesday 8th December 1998, at a nursing home in Tunbridge Wells. Beloved and loving wife of the late Dr. J. N. Marshall Chalmers. Dear mother of Isobel, Alison and Douglas and much loved Grannie of Duncan, Frances, Louise, Mark and Philip. Funeral Service at St. Thomas' Church, Groombridge, Kent on Tuesday, 15th December at 10.45am prior to cremation. Family flowers only, please, but donations, if wished, to Royal National Institute for the Blind, c/o T. W. Boorman Funeral Services, 31 Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8AA. Tel: 01892 541070.

CHRISTIANSEN - Brenda Winifred, peacefully on December 5th aged 91. Much loved by family and friends. Family flowers only, donations to the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital. Funeral Service at Amersham Crematorium, 12.30pm, December 15th.

CODD-ADAMS - Cynthia. Died peacefully on December 9th 1998. Devoted wife of the late Geoffery, beloved mother of Priscilla and Giles and sister of Sr. Mary Nina OHP. Much adored grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Little Sampford on Wednesday December 16th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Mary the Virgin Church, Little Sampford, c/o P. Francis and Co, Claypits Yard, Bardfield Road, Thaxted, Essex.

DUKE - Kenneth Hugh Molesworth on December 8th aged 80. Eldest brother of Sylvia (dec), Joan and David. Funeral Service at St. Stephen's Church, College Road, Dulwich, 12 noon, Tuesday 15th December, followed by private cremation. Donations for Parkinsons Disease Society, or flowers c/o Francis Chappell and Sons Funeral Directors. Tel 0181 653 0492.

GENGE - On December 5th 1998, Neil, beloved husband of Betsy, devoted father of Carol, Dairin and Patrick. Greatly missed. Funeral on Wednesday December 16th at St. Paul's, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge at 11.00am. Donations to Royal Marsden Trust c/o Chelsea F/D, 250b Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL.

GURNELL - Gay (née Hicks). Wife of the late Basil, much loved mother of Jo and Sarah and Grans to Annabel, Ben, James and Georgie. Family funeral at Charing Crematorium followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary the Virgin, St Mary-in-the-Marsh, near New Romney at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 16th December. No flowers, but donations may be sent to the CRAFT Club c/o Rye Golf Club Camber, East Sussex TN31 7QS.

HEWSON - Eleanor, Editor and Authoress, dearly loved sister of Kathleen and Sheila died peacefully in her sleep at Morden College, Blackheath on 1st December 1998.

HOBAN - Richard St. Clair Alexander. Suddenly, on December 3rd 1998, aged 33 years. Beloved son of John and the late Mavis Hoban, brother of Christopher, Victoria and Jonathan. Funeral Requiem Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Edge Hill, Wimbledon on Monday, December 14th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired to DEC Hurricane Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC3A 9AA.

KING - On Monday December 7th, peacefully at home, Richard of London and Wilton, aged 48, son of Anne and Raymond. Service at Salisbury Crematorium 3.00 pm Tuesday 15th December. All friends welcome to his brother John's house at Laverstock afterwards. No flowers by request but donations to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust gratefully accepted. "When I am dead, cry for me sometimes and remember moments it is pleasant to recall."

KIRBY - E. Stuart. Former Professor of Economics at Hong Kong and Aston, Birmingham, on 8th December in Taunton, after a short illness. Aged 89.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

LAIRD - Peacefully, at home, near Dumfries, on Monday 7th December 1998, Sheila, beloved wife of Graeme and mother of Stuart, Vari, Francesca and Angela. Never gave up. Funeral Service at Dunscore Parish Church at 2.30pm on Monday 14th December. Cremation at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr, at 11.00am on Tuesday 15th December. Family and friends may send flowers if they wish or place a donation, in memory of Sheila, for RNLI, at service. Flowers to William Jardine by 12 noon on Monday 14th December 1998.

McKAY - (Joe) Joseph on 3rd December peacefully after a long illness. Dearly loved husband of Anna, father of Charles and Margaret. Dear brother of Robin Columba and Mary. Sadly missed.

MENZIES - Diana Fleur Sonya (Painter of Bonkamna) wife of George and mother of Robin and William Paynter Bryant. Born 25th November 1940 died 8th December 1998. Enquiries to 0171-387-6075.

NEWELL OF FRESWICK - Enid, 7th December at The Hospice, Salisbury peacefully. Much loved mother and wife. Private family funeral Monday 14th December at 12.30pm. Donations Evanstyn Church Flowers Fund and Salisbury Hospice Care Trust. All enquiries c/o L N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Fordingbridge 01425 656286. Grateful thanks to The Salisbury Hospice for all their care.

ROBINSON - Hilda. On December 6th 1998, peacefully at Ellscombe House, Wincanton, Somerset. All friends welcome to Service of Thanksgiving at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon on Saturday January 23rd at 12 noon. No flowers please, donations if desired for Helen House Childrens' Hospice c/o Edward Carter (FD), 107 South Avenue, Abingdon, OX14 1QS.

ROGERS - Patricia Geraldine (Anne) died peacefully at home on 8th December 1998, aged 82 years. Much loved aunt and great-aunt, a unique and lovely lady who will be missed by everyone who knew her. The funeral will take place at Worthing Crematorium on Wednesday 16th December at 3pm. By request family flowers only but donations if wished may be made to R.A.F.A. c/o Co-Operative Funeral Services, 22 Goring Road, Worthing BN12 4AJ, 01903 502530.

SAUNDERS - Adam (Mick) of Toronto, Canada, born 3rd September 1923, died suddenly 28th November 1998. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but especially by his wife Ann, his daughter Catherine of Calgary, Canada, his daughter Helen Kay, wife of Richard Kay and his three grandsons Fraser, Peter and Andrew. Cremation will take place on Saturday December 12th at 10.45am at Oxford Crematorium. Flowers to P J Wilson, Gosmoor, Haddenham, Bucks HP17 8BJ.

SAWYER - David John, aged 56, passed away peacefully on the 8th December after a brave struggle against Motor Neurone Disease. Requiem Mass 10.30am December 15th at The Church of The Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount Street, London W1 "Farm Street Church". Interment at Highgate Cemetery 12 noon.

SEBBA - Max peacefully on 9th December after prolonged illness aged 80. Funeral 2.00pm on Thursday at Bushey Cemetery.

SINCLAIR - Andy of Gosforth peacefully in hospital on 5th December in his 80th year, after a long and brave battle. Loving husband of Inga Ruth, devoted father of Roni, Mavy and Gail. Adored grandfather and great-grandfather. Friends and family please meet at West Road Crematorium on Friday 11th December at 3.00 pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Ward 8 R.V.I. Newcastle upon Tyne or Marie Curie Centre, Marie Curie Drive, Newcastle NE4 6SS. He will be sadly missed.

SMITH - Vernon M.I.E.E., F.Eng., WWII RAF Radar Officer, Africa Star. Retired Defence Research Board of Canada, in Canada on 7th December 1998. Well loved husband of Ann Bentley, loving father of John, Mary, Jim and David. Remembered by Jacquie and 8 grandchildren.

THOMAS - On Tuesday December 8th, peacefully, Hester Mary, formerly of Liss, aged 100 years. Widow of Bernard W. Thomas, of Repton School, and devoted mother of Anne. A much loved and respected lady. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday December 17th at 3.00pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to MENCAP. All enquiries to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd, 18 The Square, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3HR. Tel:01730 262711.

WARE-AUSTIN - Wiltshire Dall (Bill) OBE. Died December 8th 1998. Loving husband of Elsa, father of Harriet and the late Jane and Caroline. Funeral Service at Garsdon Parish Church on Tuesday, December 15th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for either Ethiopaid or Garsdon Parish Church and enquiries to H & C. Matthews, Funeral Directors, 7 Burnham Road, Malmesbury Wiltshire, SN16 0BQ. Tel:01666 822216.

WHITAKER - On December 4th painlessly after the briefest illness, Sheila (née Bell) aged 95, of Burnham Overy Staithe. Widow of Major C.P. Whitaker. Cremation at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, on Monday December 14th at 12.15pm. No flowers by request.

OBITUARIES

BRIAN STONEHOUSE

Brian Stonehouse, MBE, wartime SOE agent, died on December 2 aged 80. He was born on August 28, 1918.

A Special Operations Executive radio operator in Occupied France in 1942, Brian Stonehouse survived horrific periods of torture and imprisonment after being captured by the Germans in October of that year. From then until the end of the war he endured *unremitting* brutality at the hands of the Vichy French, the Gestapo, the SS and their henchmen in a series of penal institutions whose names are inscribed on the roll of infamy.

These included the notorious Fresnes Prison in Paris; Mauthausen, Austria's "very own" (Himmler's words) concentration camp; Natzweiler, *set up by the SS in that part of* Alsace-Lorraine which had been incorporated in the Reich after June 1940; and finally Dachau, in Bavaria, from where he was eventually liberated by American troops in the spring of 1945.

For Stonehouse and other SOE prisoners who lived to return to normal life, only the determination never to give in, never to *permit their* SS captors to reduce them to the level of the vermin who were their constant companions, sustained them in their torment. And when, after these sufferings, normality did at last beckon, it was at first difficult for anyone in England to comprehend what these surviving prisoners of the SS had been through. When Stonehouse returned to London, an emaciated shadow of his former self, two of his former FANY (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) friends hardly recognised him. And when, in their horrified compassion, they invited him to the flat they shared and cooked him a lunch of chops — their entire week's meat ration — he rushed out into the street as the frying pan sizzled, crying, "I can't bear the smell of burning flesh."

Brian Stonehouse grew up in France and received his education at the Boulogne Lycée. Later he studied art and was working as an illustrator for *Vogue* and other magazines when war broke out. He at first served with the Royal Artillery before taking a commission in the Honourable Artillery Company. His fluent French soon recommended him to the SOE, who extracted him from the HAC to train him as a radio operator.

In July 1942, using the codename *Célestin*, he was dropped into the Loire region of France, though a long way from his intended dropping point. One of his first difficulties was to retrieve his radio transmitter which had been snagged high up in a tree during the drop. It took Stonehouse a week to get it down from the branches, an anxious time during which he always feared detection.



Stonehouse: after horrific wartime experiences, a grateful return to art

After many vicissitudes he made contact with Philippe de Vomécourt (codename *Gauthier*), the less than helpful French Resistance leader in the region, who made it clear that he wanted arms and money, not troublesome British agents. Stonehouse was somewhat brusquely directed to Lyons from where, after many difficulties, he made contact with London. Moving around with his transmitter from safe house to safe house, helped by a French courier Blanche Charlet (codenamed *Christiane*), he eventually installed himself in a chateau outside Lyons. It was there that he was making an overlong transmission (so many Resistance radio operators had been captured or killed that the burden fell on him) when German direction finders obtained a fix on him. He and Charlet were both arrested by Vichy police; she subsequently escaped and made her way to England.

He was imprisoned first by the Vichy at Castres in the South of France before being delivered into the hands of the Paris Gestapo at Fresnes. There, apart from admitting to being a British officer, he gave nothing else away, and spent the next 12 months in solitary confinement. Each night, as he later recalled, he heard the sentry pause outside his cell and wondered whether this portended his execution.

Next, in November 1943, he passed into the hands of the SS at Neue Bremme, near Saarbrücken, to experience the first dose of the SS's methods of brutalising those in their power. Thereafter there was something inexplicably random about the Nazis' treatment of its SOE prisoners. For no apparent reason Stonehouse was then sent to the concentration camp at Mauthausen in Upper Austria, a grisly place whose proud boast was that it maintained, throughout the war, the highest execution rate of any of the concentration camps (a different species from death camps such as Auschwitz, whose sole purpose was extermination).

At Mauthausen Stonehouse met a number of other SOE men he had *known in London and in the field*, notably the Belgian army doctor Albert Guérisse, who had himself endured hideous torture without divulging anything to his tormentors. The SOE men were next transferred — again somewhat inexplicably — to Natzweiler in Alsace-Lorraine, by then part of the Greater Reich. They were were now all classified as being under the *Nacht und Nebel Erlaß* (Night and Fog Decree) which put them in the ranks of those who might be dispatched without trace.

Equally irrationally, Stonehouse and his colleagues were shoved aimlessly about the concentration camp system for several more months before they were sent, in early 1945, to Dachau, again not a death camp (though thousands died there), but the earliest and perhaps most infamous of the German *Konzentrationslager*. There in October 1944, four women SOE colleagues: Noor Inayat Khan, Yolande Beekman, Eliane Plewman and Madeleine Damerment, had been shot as they knelt together, holding hands.

Though reduced to the lowest level of degradation, Stonehouse and his colleagues refused to succumb. After they had been liberated by the Americans, Stonehouse was presented with a Thomson submachinegun and offered the chance summarily to execute the worst of the SS thugs with the promise of immunity from any inquiry into the matter. He refused: "You must not," he said, "sink to the level of your tormentors." The MBE (military) he was awarded for such harrowing service seems, now, a meagre enough acknowledgement.

After his return to Britain, Stonehouse, like many of those who had endured such privations, did not much care to dwell on the past. He left Britain for America, settling in New York where he revitalised his earlier artistic career and established himself as a portrait painter. But he returned, in 1979, to Britain, and a chance contact put him in touch with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. He painted her portrait for the Special Forces Club in Knightsbridge, where it now hangs. He had been due to attend the unveiling of a second portrait of the Queen Mother at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, but died before this could take place.

A brave, modest and kindly man, Stonehouse remained unmarried.

SIR OTTO FRANKEL

Sir Otto Frankel, FRS, agricultural scientist, died on November 21 aged 98. He was born on November 4, 1900.



Frankel's work led to concern for the loss of biodiversity

THE career of Sir Otto Frankel, like that of Sir Nevill Mott, was unusual for a scientist, in that his most widely acclaimed work was *done after his official retire*ment. The current interest in the conservation of biodiversity largely developed out of earlier concerns about the accelerating loss of the genetic resources of domesticated plants and animals, which Frankel raised in the 1960s.

Following his retirement from the executive of the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in 1966, Frankel gave much of his time and energy to leading a joint effort by the International Biological Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation to assess the threats to the genetic resources of agricultural plants and animals, and to formulate action for their preservation and use.

In 1972 he was invited to address the first United Nations Conference for the Human Environment in Stockholm about the hazards of the continuing loss of genetic diversity in the plants and animals essential to the world's food supply, and to indicate what should be done to prevent further genetic erosion, as he called it. His address and the coverage of it brought the problem before a wide public audience. Long before "biodiversity" became a buzz word and a cause, Frankel had argued — in his Macleay Memorial lecture, delivered in 1970 — that mankind had acquired evolutionary responsibility. His lecture to the 13th International Congress of Genetics was assessed by Soulé and Mills as prophetic in presenting "the conceptual and moral agenda for the discipline of conservation genetics".

Otto Herzberg Frankel was born in Vienna in 1900, the third of the four sons of Ludwig and Thérèse Herzberg-Frankel. All four brothers lived long and distinguished lives. His elder brother Theodor, who came to England in 1938, conceived and directed the Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills enterprise in the Highlands, while his younger brother, Paul, who also came to England in 1938, founded Petroleum Economics Ltd.

By contrast, Otto Frankel's *lifelong interest was in agricul*ture, in which, after periods at the universities of Vienna, Munich and Giessen, he obtained his doctorate from the University of Berlin in 1925. His cousin, the historian Lewis Namier, who was at that time an ardent Zionist, arranged for him to visit England before joining a team of British scientists in Palestine. At the completion of that mission Frankel returned to England and was appointed in 1929 to a post as the plant breeder in the Wheat Research Institute in Christchurch, New Zealand. He remained there for 22 years, and the improved varieties he bred constituted most of that country's wheat crop for many years. In 1950 he was appointed director of the agronomy division of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Throughout his time in New Zealand, he continued his cytogenetic research, begun in Palestine and greatly stimulated by visits to work with C. D. Darlington at the John Innes Horticultural Institution in 1935 and 1939. During his 1935 trip he also visited and established a close rapport with European wheat breeders and the great Russian geneticist N. I. Vavilov, with whom he subsequently exchanged plant breeding materials and suggestions.

In 1951 he was appointed chief of the CSIRO division of plant industry in Canberra, Australia, where he built up an outstanding and comprehensive team with a strong focus on fundamental problems in agriculture.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1948, of the Royal Society in 1953, of the Australian Academy of Science in 1954. He was knighted in 1966. He was also an honorary member of the Japan Academy and a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences.

His first marriage, to Mathilde Donsbach in 1925, was dissolved in 1936. In 1939 he married his second wife, Margaret Anderson, with whom he shared a discerning interest in both architecture and gardening, and together they built three elegant modern homes. They were both active in Canberra's musical and artistic circles, Margaret Frankel being a well-known potter and painter. She died in 1997. There were no children.

KENNY KIRKLAND

Kenny Kirkland, jazz pianist, died in New York, apparently of a heart attack, on or around November 12 aged 43. He was born in Brooklyn on *September 28, 1955*

AS Kenny Kirkland clambered onto the stage for his last British appearance with saxophonist Branford Marsalis's quartet at the Brecon Jazz Festival in August, he supported himself as usual with a cane and lurched to the piano with a slow, halting gait. This was the long-term effect of breaking both legs and a hip shortly before graduating from the Manhattan School of Music more than 20 years ago, but any impression of immobility was immediately dispelled when he started to play, with a brash aggression that brought a percussive edge to his cascades of notes and brittle thematic phrases.

In Marsalis's band, Kirkland played alongside drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, an association that began on the 1981 debut album of Branford's younger brother, Wynton. Their work with the Marsalis brothers made Watts and Kirkland one of the most sought-after rhythm sections in jazz, and they played together often, not least with Kenny Garrett's group when it visited Britain last year. At the time of his death, Kirkland had been recording with both Branford Marsalis and Watts — the final appearances on disc of a musician in his prime.

He was known to a far wider international audience than most jazz musicians through his work with Sting, and the NBC television band directed by Branford Marsalis for Jay Leno's *Tonight* show.

Kenneth David Kirkland was the third of four children in a Brooklyn family that encouraged music. He began piano lessons at six, and barely listened to any jazz until he was 20, preferring the music of keyboard players such as Herbie Hancock (who was then in his "Headhunters" phase) and Larry Willis of Blood, Sweat and Tears.

Despite this fascination for rock and soul, he graduated as a classical music teacher after recovering from his injuries, and almost immediately he discovered jazz, an interest fuelled by moving into a loft on 3rd Avenue and 30th Street in New York. This was a meeting place for the burgeoning after-hours "loft jazz" jam-session scene in New York, involving the musicians Wallace Roney, Victor Bailey and Branford Marsalis.

Kirkland found plenty of work in the late 1970s, with the Polish fusion violinist Michel Urbaniak (with whom he came to Europe), the soul singer Angela Bofill, guitarist Rodney Jones and bassist Miroslav Vitous. He also recorded with percussionist Don Alias, and the Japanese trumpeter Terumasa Hino, with whom he was touring in Japan when he met Wynton Marsalis for the first time.

Marsalis was only 19 when he invited Kirkland to play on his first album. Herbie Hancock shared the piano duties and acted as producer.

Kirkland made several more recordings with this band, and it was at this time that both Marsalis brothers made their reputations, much resting on Wynton's proselytising about the jazz tradition. Consequently when Kirkland and Branford Marsalis defected to join a new rock-fusion band set up by Sting, (his first solo venture after leaving the Police), their move generated plenty of column inches in the music press and brought a certain coolness from Wynton.

In the event, Sting's band was a musical triumph, and it made three follow-up albums after the 1985 *Dream of the Blue Turtles*. Kirkland contributed some freewheeling synthesizer playing and proved during the band's concerts that he had lost none of his sensibilities as a solo jazz pianist.

Kirkland continued to appear alongside Sting, but also played in a plethora of freelance sessions with a bewildering variety of musicians — from rockers such as Crosby, Stills and Nash; to soul star Ben E. King; and the Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour. Yet his most consistent and highly rated achievements were in the world of jazz, playing with everyone from Dizzy Gillespie to Carla Bley.

His main association continued to be with Branford Marsalis on a string of albums and tours, and for a short *time* on the *Tonight* show band, which Marsalis directed. This involved a move to Los Angeles, but Kirkland disliked the West, and returned to his home in Queens, New York, to continue freelancing.

His intensive studio work meant that he made comparatively few recordings under his own name, only one session from GRP and one from Sunnyside Records being issued with Kirkland as leader. He did, however, lead a quartet around New York from time to time, and he had been scheduled to head a tribute to Herbie Hancock called *Speak Like a Child*, which took place at the Iridium Club just after his death.

Kirkland's health had given his closest friends cause for concern for some time, and he appeared to be increasingly dependent upon drugs. His body was found in the small hours of November 13, after his neighbours raised the alarm, and although it is thought he suffered a heart attack, drug-using equipment was reportedly found in his apartment, and the cause of death is under investigation by the New York Police. He is survived by his mother, a brother and a sister.

REDFERNS



Kenny Kirkland's brash piano playing was widely known through his television work

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 14th January 1999 to send in their full Christian names and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, S.D. Sweden, FCA, of Leonard Curtis, One Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8LR the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
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S.D. SWADEN FCA, Liquidator

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THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA

NEW YORK

Yesterday was Thanksgiving Day, and, by way of enlivening the solemnity, a negro regiment (the 2d United States Coloured), the first that ever was seen in New York, was paraded along the streets. The appearance of these "gorillas in regimentals", as the Copperheads call them, excited some attention, but gave rise to no disturbance, in spite of the merry-making Irishry through whom they passed, and notwithstanding the old grudge that Paddy is said to bear against Sambo. Neither, however, did I, yesterday, see the clapping of hands, or hear the acclamation with which a sight of that nature was greeted in Boston four months ago; for New York, with its motley population and its all-absorbing dollar-worship, cannot be expected to go the lengths of earnest and *stubborn and fanatical New England*. That the Yankee must familiarize himself with the idea of a political association of the negro with his own proud destinies, that he must even wink at the fusion and amalgamation of the races, is, however, matter which leaves room for little doubt. Already the blackie steps fearless and even somewhat swaggering in, elbowing his Caucasian brethren in all public rooms and conveyances. The barrier which centuries of instinct, or, if you prefer, prejudice, had raised is everywhere falling to the ground, and the New York papers actually have matrimonial advertisements by "two *full-blooded, lively negroes* away down South, who are looking for some loyal young ladies of cheerful disposition, handsome, intelligent, dark-haired, dark-eyed, *fair complexion*, and not over 20 years of age, with a view to mirth and marriage." Well might Mr Ward Beecher preach yesterday from the pulpit at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn: "There is nothing that will make the common people so quickly sympathise with the African as the knowledge that he will fight; and he does fight, and, if that is a test, is therefore a man. Although war is not thought to be a civiliser, yet men may have been held so low that even war is elevation. And so it is with the coloured men: they come up a great way before they have a right to touch the sword, and when they have laid their hand on it, the heroism of it fires their hearts, and with it they hew themselves, in their rugged and narrow path, a higher place. When 100,000 negroes can show that they, in heroic service for us, have given their blood *for ours, then will you let them or their kind* be trampled under foot any more?"

Well might the audience welcome with loud plaudits the close of their preacher's sermon. As they chose to have the black to fight their battles, so it is right, not only that the black and their kind should cease to be trampled under foot, but also that the two races should be brought upon a footing of equality, sufficient not only to remove all civil, social, and political disabilities, but also overcome all personal repugnance; and when the close of the war brings back to the North 100,000 swarthy Othellos, who have given their blood for the stay-at-home white man, it must go hard with them if they do not find among the Yankee girls 100,000 Desdemonas, fair creatures, "in whose eyes a dark man may be a pearl."

ON THIS DAY

December 10, 1863

Nearly 100 years before President Johnson's Civil Rights Act was passed Our Correspondent found just cause for America's black people to be accorded equality with the white man.

NEWS

Pinochet in court tomorrow

■ General Augusto Pinochet will stand in the dock of Britain's most secure court tomorrow to be called to account for the first time for atrocities carried out during his reign in Chile.

His appearance at Belmarsh magistrate's court in southeast London follows Jack Straw's decision to allow extradition proceedings against the former dictator to go ahead. The announcement was greeted with delight by human rights campaigners..... **Pages 1, 2**

Sacking of Abbey organist 'justified'

■ The Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey were justified in sacking organist Dr Martin Neary and his wife, Penny, the concert secretary, retired lawlord Lord Jauncey of Tulichettle ruled. He ruled that Dr Wesley Carr was right to sack the couple for secretly setting up a private company ..... **Pages 1, 9**

Pension plans

Middle-income earners must pay up to 9 per cent of their salaries into pension schemes under radical government proposals to be unveiled by Alastair Darling next week..... **Page 1**

Christmas gloom

There are no robins, reindeer or apple-cheeked Santas on William Hague's Christmas card this year. Instead, the Tory leader has picked a harrowing image that seems to reflect the turmoil of the Conservative Party ..... **Page 3**

Fertility deals

Women are to be allowed to exchange their ova for cut-price or free fertility treatment after a change of heart by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority..... **Page 5**

Breast cancer tackled

Death rates from breast cancer have become the first clinical indicator to be published since league tables for the National Health Service were introduced in 1993. By April anyone with a suspected breast tumour will be guaranteed an appointment within two weeks..... **Page 6**

Pupil poaching

The head of successful grammar school has accused a neighbouring sixth form college of poaching star pupils. Roger Hale says Franklin College in Grimsby is marketing itself in an "aggressive and rude manner" ..... **Page 7**

Channel 4 revamp

Channel 4 News has unveiled a new look, borrowing from its populist rival Channel 5 and putting Jon Snow's legs on display. The newscaster's desk has been replaced with a modish low-slung plinth in bright orange in the revamp..... **Page 11**

Blackouts beckon

San Francisco was recovering from a massive rush-hour blackout that stranded thousands of people and offered a grim preview of the chaos many anticipate in the first few seconds of the next millennium..... **Page 14**

Iraq halts inspections

A new Gulf crisis loomed last night after Iraq refused United Nations weapons inspectors access to a suspect site in Baghdad. It came less than a month after Iraq pledged to co-operate **Page 17**

Kosovo sex ceasefire

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe dispatched prostitutes back to Belgrade after they were discovered in a Kosovo ski hotel servicing international "verifiers" monitoring the ceasefire..... **Page 18**

Hostage apology

The four hostages whose severed heads were found beside a road in Chechnya on Tuesday had been murdered after a bungled rescue attempt, Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen President, admitted yesterday..... **Page 19**

Unearthing man's 4ft 'missing link'

■ Details of the oldest complete skeleton of a hominid ever found were disclosed yesterday by Ron Clarke, a British scientist. They will provide priceless clues about the "missing link" between early man and his ape ancestors. Dr Clarke, 54, found the skeleton embedded in rock at Silberberg Grotto on the northern edge of Johannesburg, South Africa..... **Page 15**



SIMON WALKER

Dean Wesley Carr, centre, and Westminister Abbey Chapter members were "justified" in sacking an Abbey organist, **Pages 1, 9**

BUSINESS

Drugs merger: The £40 billion pharmaceuticals merger of Zeneca, of Britain, and Astra, of Sweden, will result in the loss of 1,000 jobs in the UK..... **Page 27**

Shanghai DIY: Kingfisher, the retail group, is stepping up the pace of its expansion with plans for a branch of B&Q, its DIY chain, in Shanghai..... **Page 27**

Tax probe: The European Commission is hiring a team of outside management consultants to investigate tax breaks in areas such as tax incentives for inward investment..... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 53.4 points to 5669.1. The pound gained 0.52 cents to $1.6580 and 0.34 pfennig to DM2.7652. The sterling index was unchanged at 99.6 **Page 30**

SPORT

Cricket: Salim Malik, the Pakistan batsman, said that admissions by Mark Waugh and Shane Warne of accepting money from an Indian bookmaker proved his own innocence..... **Page 52**

Football: Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, must learn from the Uefa Cup defeat but the lessons are so harsh he must wonder where to begin..... **Page 52**

Rugby union: Llanelli will discover today whether they can include the recently signed Scott Quinnell in their team for the European Cup quarter-final..... **Page 49**

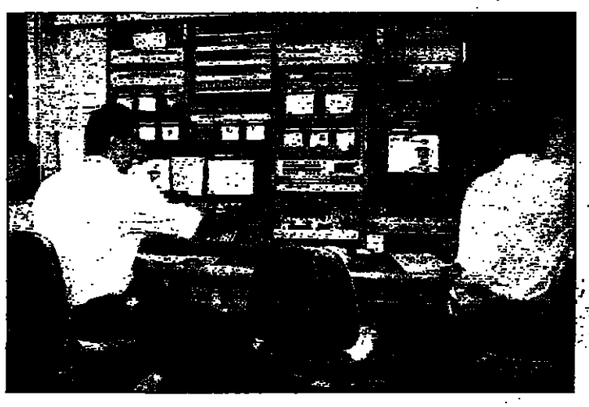
Racing: A tempting carrot, worth around £10 million a year, is likely to be dangled in front of the sport by the big bookmakers next autumn..... **Page 43**

Proud premiere: The renovated Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester reopens with a production of *Hindle Wakes*, the play which was on when an IRA bomb blew up the building..... **Page 36**

New movies: Anthony Hopkins and Antonio Banderas team up to great effect in the Hollywood swashbuckler *The Mask of Zorro*; while Disney remakes *The Parent Trap*..... **Page 37**

Video verity: Richard Billingham turns the camera on his own family for Sunday night's bleak BBC2 documentary *Fishtank*..... **Page 38**

Star partners: The husband-and-wife team of Thomas Edur and Agnes Oaks are back at English National Ballet, where they began their careers..... **Page 39**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **MEDIA**
Will the introduction of new television technology affect programme quality?

■ **EDUCATION**
American celebrities are choosing British independent schools for their children

Wild thing: Paul O Grady, the acerbic Liverpudlian, talks about breathing fire and brimstone into his curiously endearing creation, Lily Savage..... **Page 21**

Medical report: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on how to recognise carbon monoxide poisoning, Parkinson's disease, why tomatoes can help in the fight against cancer, parasitic infections, and women and heart attacks..... **Page 20**

Bargains of the week: These include Christmas in fancy dress at Bournemouth, skiing in the French Alps and a dream holiday in the Caribbean..... **Page 42**

Christmas list: Critics including Roger Scruton, Jeanette Winterson and Peter Ackroyd discuss their Christmas choices..... **Pages 40, 41**

What a contrast. In China on Monday, authorities were scheduling the trial of Wang Youcai whose "crime" consists of peacefully attempting to register a democratic political party. Across Taiwan Straits, authorities were analysing weekend elections in which 80 percent of Taiwan's eligible voters participated. Where, you might ask, are the true "Asians values?"
The Washington Times

Preview: How the Soviet Union managed to get one step of the Americans and defy Western predictions with the development of its own hydrogen bomb in the 1950s. *Science At War* (BBC2, 9.25pm)
Review: Joe Joseph on adolescents who think they know it all and don't..... **Pages 50, 51**

Back to the lawyers

The Home Secretary may feel that he has deferred an embarrassing issue. It will in truth become no less complex, in legal or political terms, for the delay..... **Page 23**

Gamma minus

This tawdry business, which has cost both sides fortunes in legal fees, should in Frank Field's words have been "sorted out over a cup of tea"..... **Page 23**

The new Dreifuss

In ordinary circumstances the formal election of a new Switzerland federal president would not be the cause of much international interest..... **Page 23**

BASIL HUME

Human rights will be respected only if people are fired by a radical and unswerving commitment to the common good of all. This requires a change of heart on the part of each of us..... **Page 22**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Hard-working, earnest, and with just a hint of Presbyterian gloom about him. It is no surprise that Gordon Brown is a son of the manse..... **Page 22**

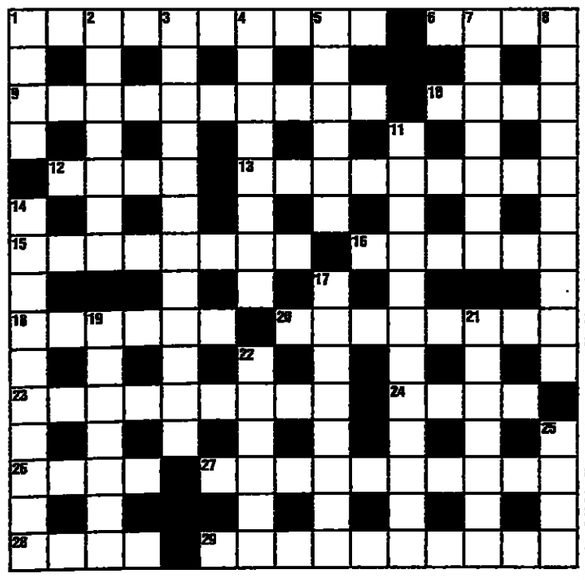
JOHN LAUGHLAND

Jack Straw's decision to let General Pinochet be extradited to Spain is not a victory for international law and justice. Instead, it inflicts severe damage on international law..... **Page 22**

Brian Stonehouse, wartime SOE agent; Sir Otto Frankel, agricultural scientist; Kenny Kirkland, jazz pianist..... **Page 25**

Lord Habgood on human cloning; Pentagon millennium bug problems; self-reliance of proud pensioners; Dupuytren contracture; a book-free Dome; bacteria at Palace; feminine angels; cruelty to moles..... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,971



ACROSS

1 Palace supporter disrupted *match*? No, sir! (10).
6 Soft edge receives mark (4).
9 Having the sauce to aim for source of easy money (5,5).
10 Parrot's head (4).
12 With arid spell, possibly, river disappears here (4).
13 Space on grassy area that's provided for players to relax (5,4).
15 One would dispute his degree was top-class (8).
16 Parts of river finally reversing direction (6).
18 Puff away, being no longer fit? (6).
20 Dictionary used by judge (8).
23 Gone off to capture place — aim for glory (9).
24 Plot reported a good deal (4).
26 As some say, opposed to a machine (4).
27 Mentioned a different name (10).
28 Privet, for example, commonly said to be used for boundary (4).
29 Not returning to delightful Northern town (10).

DOWN

1 Wizard in match getting swapped, oddly (4).
2 Falls over once more — not in rain (7).
3 Is it incomprehensible to one unversed in Cockney? (7,5).
4 I'm taking a risk in present travels (4,4).
5 Tiny piece of money I exchanged with pound (6).
7 Elementary form is to put in work on English (7).
8 In history, it's simple to revise a previously used paper (10).
11 Rest of burial party's job? (12).
14 Grimes's profits in gambling enterprise (10).
17 Drawing fuel (8).
19 Making slow progress, not liking to cross line (7).
21 Pull out from tour heartlessly, being in demand (7).
22 Foresee a holding in good wine-bar (6).
25 Vital passage some have infiltrated (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.970

L	I	B	R	A		S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E	D
O		A		L		T		E		U		O		U
C	O	R	K	S	C	R	E	W		L	A	M	E	D
K			A		E		E		O		P		S	
S	A	L	E	G	A	T	A	L	O	G	U	E		
M		I		E		C			I		T		M	
I	O	T	A		C	H	O	R	U	S	L	I	N	E
T		T		M		E		E		T		R		
H	E	L	I	O	G	R	A	P	H		L	I	A	R
S		E		N			A		R		O		Y	
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T	E	M	P	I		S	H	E	E	P	F	O	L	D
C		E		S		C		N		U		A		Q
H	A	N	G	A	B	O	U	T		S	T	R	A	W

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.55 am — Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 12.31 pm — Moon rises: 11.48 pm

Last quarter today
London 3.52 pm to 7.56 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.05 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.33 am
Manchester 3.56 pm to 8.15 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.11 pm

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

UK business travellers flying within Europe just announced their choice for Best Airline*.
Many thanks.
*in Business Traveller Magazine
swissair

FORECAST

☐ **General:** eastern and southern England, Wales, western England and eastern Scotland wet and windy in morning but brighter this afternoon. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland wet and windy at first, then brighter with one or two showers. Mild everywhere.

☐ **London, SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** Dry at first with hazy sunshine, but rain spreading from west by mid-afternoon. Blustery southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Cent S and N, NE England, W Midlands, Channel Isles:** Rain from west but clear by late afternoon. Brisk southerly wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **SW, NW England, S and N Wales, Lakes, IoM:** Wet this morning, then brightening. Fresh southerly wind turn SW. Max 13C (50-55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Windy with rain in morning but clearing later. Strong southerly wind. Max 10C (46-50F).

☐ **SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** Wet and windy, then sunshine and a few showers. Strong to gale southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** early rain in east, otherwise sunny intervals and some showers. Wind southwest fresh or strong, decreasing. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** Another spell of very wet and windy weather will spread from south-west tomorrow, but it will remain very mild.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.3	0.01	8	46	r	Kinloss	2.9	-	12	54	b
Anglesey	1.7	0.01	10	50	b	Leeds	-	0.01	4	39	fg
Aspatria	3.0	-	10	50	s	Lerwick	1.6	0.01	8	46	c
Aviemore	2.9	0.02	10	50	b	Leuchars	2.9	-	9	48	b
Belfast	2.2	0.01	10	50	b	Littlehmptn	-	0.73	11	52	c
Birmingham	-	0.02	9	48	fg	London	2.0	0.05	13	55	b
Bognor R	-	0.70	11	52	r	Lowestoft	-	0.12	9	48	fg
Bournem'th	1.2	0.42	11	52	b	Manchester	1.1	0.01	8	46	fg
Bristol	0.4	-	12	54	du	Margate	-	0.35	9	48	fg
Buxton	-	0.01	7	45	fg	Newcastle	4.9	-	7	45	fg
Cardiff	0.2	-	12	54	fg	Norwich	-	0.01	9	48	fg
Cleethorpes	-	0.01	5	41	fg	Oxford	-	0.01	10	50	fg
Colwyn Bay	4.9	0.01	13	55	s	Penzance	6.0	0.03	14	57	s
Cromer	-	0.08	9	48	fg	Poole	-	0.26	12	54	c
Eastbourne	-	0.52	11	52	du	Prestatyn	5.7	0.01	12	54	c
Edinburgh	4.6	-	10	50	s	Ross on Wye	-	0.01	10	50	c
Eskdalemuir	1.7	0.01	6	43	r	Saunton Snd	4.3	0.07	13	55	s
Exmouth	3.5	0.05	12	54	s	Scarboro'	1.6	0.04	8	46	fg
Falmouth	x					Shrewsbury	1.8	0.01	8	46	fg
Fishguard	1.4	0.01	10	50	r	Skegness	-	0.01	7	45	fg
Folkestone	0.2	0.51	10	50	c	Southend	-	0.41	11	52	du
Glasgow	0.5	0.01	11	52	r	Southsea	-	0.43	11	52	du
Guernsey	2.8	0.48	14	57	b	Stornoway	-	0.10	10	50	du
Hastings	1.0	0.44	11	52	fg	Swanage	2.2	0.44	13	55	c
Hayling I.	-	0.70	10	50	d	Teignmouth	4.5	0.09	13	55	s
Herne Bay	0.4	0.31	11	52	c	Tenby	2.6	0.01	12	54	s
Howe	-	0.23	10	50	du	Tiree	0.4	0.05	10	50	r
Hunstanton	-	0.05	8	46	fg	Torquay	3.5	0.06	14	57	s
Isle of Wight	x	1.06	11	52	r	Weston s Mare	1.1	0.17	11	52	b
Jersey	0.9	0.50	12	54	fg	Weymouth	4.7	0.26	12	54	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	11	52	s	Chicago	5	41	s	Luxemburg	-4	25	c
Alicante	19	66	s	Cologne	1	34	s	Luxor	31	88	s
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Corfu	10	50	s	Madrid	6	43	s
Algiers	12	54	r	C'phagn	0	32	f	Majorca	13	55	f
Amst'dm	-1	30	c	Dublin	11	52	r	Malaga	14	57	s
Athens	10	50	r	Dubrovnik	4	39	s	Malta	12	54	f
B Aires	31	88	f	Faro	14	57	s	Mel'rne	17	63	f
Bahrain	24	75	s	Florence	6	43	s	Mexico C	18	64	s
Bangkok	31	88	f	Frankfurt	-2	28	c	Miami	27	81	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	18	64	c	Milan	6	43	s
Barcelona	10	50	s	Geneva	0	32	s	Montreal	-2	28	s
Beijing	3	37	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Moscow	-5	23	c
Beirut	21	70	f	Helsinki	-5	23	sn	Munich	-2	28	sn
Belgrade	-2	28	f	Hong K	20	68	f	N Delhi	21	70	s
Berlin	-2	28	c	Innsbruck	-1	30	s	N York	10	50	f
Bermuda	X			Istanbul	5	41	r	Nairobi	21	70	f
Biarritz	9	48	s	Jeddah	33	91	s	Naples	8	46	s
Bordeaux	7	45	f	Jo'burg	X			Nice	11	52	s
Brussels	1	34	f	L Angels	15	59	s	Oslo	-7	19	f
Budapest	-5	23	s	L Palmas	21	70	f	Paris	2	36	c
Cairo	25	77	f	Le Tquet	4	39	f	Perth	26	77	c
Cape Tn	X			Lisbon	7	45	s	Prague	-4	25	c
Ch'church	X			Locarno	6	43	s	Reykjavik	7	45	sh
Rhodes	18	64	s								
Rio de J	28	79	s								
Riyadh	27	81	s								
Rome	8	46	s								
S Fr'sco	9	48	f								
S Paulo	X										
Salzburg	-3	27	sn								
Santiago	26	79	f								
Seoul	0	32	s								
Sing'por	28	79	r								
Stckholm	-1	30	f								
Strasb'rg	-1	34	f								
Sydney	21	70	c								
Tangier	16	59	s								
Tel Aviv	25	77	c								
Tenerife	21	70	s								
Tokyo	13	55	f								
Toronto	3	37	c								
Tunis	11	52	f								
Valencia	14	57	s								
Vanc'ver	5	41	s								
Venice	5	41	s								
Vienna	-3	27	sn								

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low B will move north and fill; low C will move northeast and deeper; high D will become slow moving and intensify



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	6:23	3.7	18:53	3.8	Liverpool	3:42	8.0	16:04	8.1
Avonmouth	11:44	11.0			London Bridge	6:13	6.4	18:46	6.5
Belfast	4:03	3.0	16:10	3.3	Lowestoft	1:42	2.4	15:01	2.5
Cardiff	11:30	10.2			Margate	4:16	4.4	16:59	4.2
Devonport	10:13	4.8	22:52	4.4	Milford Haven	10:54	5.8	23:27	5.4
Dover	3:21	6.0	15:54	5.8	Newquay	9:52	5.9	22:28	5.5
Dublin	4:36	3.8	16:54	3.8	Oban	10:14	3.3	23:06	3.0
Falmouth	9:44	4.6	22:23	4.2	Penzance	9:17	4.8	21:51	4.5
Greenock	6:10	3.2	18:39	3.6	Portland	11:06	1.7	23:51	1.4
Harwich	4:03	3.8	16:39	3.6	Portsmouth	4:19	4.2	16:16	4.0
Holyhead	3:05	4.7	16:23	4.9	Shoreham	3:44	5.5	16:01	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	11:04	7.4	23:11	7.7	Southampton	3:21	4.1	15:36	4.0
Ilfracombe	10:37	7.7	23:11	7.9	Swansea	10:57	8.0	23:30	7.5
King's Lynn	11:20	6.4	23:19	5.5	Tees	8:40	4.8	20:54	4.8
Leith	7:33	4.8	19:57	4.8	Walton-on-Naze	4:01	3.8	16:38	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Leeming, North Yorkshire, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 1.06in; highest sunshine: Penzance, Cornwall, 6hr.

BIRTHS

BLACKWOOD - (née Whitfiel a daughter, F Romilly Mary December - Eleanor.

BLACK - Andre and Annabel Angus Henry born 6th Dec

COTTON - On 1 1998, to Kirst McCulloch) a a daughter, D Crichton.

CRAWFURD - O December to Villiers-Smit Edward, a gir Esther Payne Emma and G

HALL - On Nov April (née Bu Matthew, a so Francis Sand

HURD - On Nov in Amman, Jo (née Ambrey) a son Sebastia Bartholomew

KENT - On Dec The Portland Victoria (née and David, a c Roberts Rose.

KNOX - On 1st D Judy (née Rod John, a son, W Graeme Robe

KRAUS - On De at The Portlan to Suzette and daughter, Juli sister for Ame

LEE - On Decem The Portland Shelly and Do daughter, Alex Hope, a sister and Kyra.

Susan I

A service of life of Susan I at 11.30am a bridge, on Tu 1998 - no mor Donations to Memorial Fi Place, Londor

The He Charitie

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27

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS
Prescribing the miracle cure of merger medicine
PAGE 31



ARTS
Beauty and dash as Zorro rides again
PAGES 36-39



SPORT
Australia vents fury at disgraced cricket star
PAGES 43-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10 1998

EU 'snoops' to look into British tax breaks

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE European Commission is to hire a team of investigators with a remit to crackdown on tax breaks for companies in Britain.

As part of a move to drive forward the push by Brussels to root out "harmful tax competition", it has emerged that the Commission is bringing in management consultants to look into "administrative practices" in areas such as tax incentives for inward investment.

The consultants were immediately labelled "licensed snoops" by British Conservatives who said that UK companies could come under investigation as part of a Commission inquiry into corporate taxation in the UK.

Peter Mandelson's Department of Trade and Industry is likely to be investigated on its handling of inward investment decisions, given that Britain has been the most successful magnet in Europe for foreign direct investment in recent years.

The consultants' study is being carried out as part of the work of the Code of Conduct group chaired by Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Its go-ahead was approved at the recent meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels, who asked the Commission to complete its investigation into tax comparisons by June 1999.

The aim of the study will be to find other tax breaks and incentives that can be added to the list of 85 that Britain has already agreed to get rid of.

It also wants to gather information, particularly on any tax incentives that may "affect the location of business activity in the Community". This would include any tax incentives or regional grants that might be on offer to potential investors in Britain and other European countries. It could even pose a threat to regional development authorities.

Graham Mather, MEP, the Conservative business spokesman in the European Parliament, said that the Financial Secretary's position was now untenable. He said: "The bizarre position now reached is that Dawn Primarolo has hired consultants to investigate the systems operated by her Treasury ministerial colleagues and civil servants. It is a rare example of a minister arranging to investigate herself."

Mr Mather called for the Financial Secretary to step down from her position, in which she "is the figurehead of a group trying to reduce the competitiveness of Britain's tax system, which ministers claim to be prepared to defend if necessary by veto". He has put down a written question in the European Parliament, asking who would be carrying out the study, what external consultants would be paid, what were the precise terms of reference of the study and whether it would be made available to MEPs.

The Treasury said that the study on administrative practices had been commissioned by the European Commission, not by Ms Primarolo, and that the Commission had often used outside consultants in the past, particularly when it was being asked to investigate a matter quickly.

Railtrack regulator wants to rebase charges

BY CARL MORTISHED

RAILTRACK was warned by its regulator that it could face a grim future of low returns if it failed to take on more risk and deliver a better rail network.

Shares in Railtrack plunged 4 per cent to £14.67 as Chris Bolt, the new rail regulator, stunned the market with proposals that would squeeze the company's revenues hard.

Mr Bolt described Railtrack's returns as "excessive", given the government guarantee for much of its income and said that Railtrack's access charges — the fees paid by train operators which make up its income — should be rebased.

In his first contribution to the debate on Railtrack's pricing regime, Mr Bolt yesterday proposed that Railtrack's rate of return should be between 5 and 6 per cent on an asset base of £2.54 billion The latter figure is based on the first day's trading in the shares. Fears of renationalisation had depressed the stock but since the first day of trading, when the shares were valued at £3.90, the price has risen fourfold.

Railtrack said that it was disappointed by Mr Bolt's conclusion. Norman Broadhurst, finance director, said: "He appears to have ignored our representations."

Mr Bolt held out a lifeline to Railtrack, suggesting that it had to choose what sort of company it wanted to be. "Does it want to be a low-risk, low-return, boring utility, or does it want to share in the risks and rewards of building a better railway?"

Railtrack is to produce its network management statement next spring, which will set out its proposals for improving the network. Mr Bolt said it would be up to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Strategic Rail Authority to decide if it wants to buy those improvements. "Our job is to decide what is an efficient price to deliver it."

Under Mr Bolt's proposals Railtrack can choose to act as a "contractor" delivering specific rail projects for the Government, or it can take on the risk of passenger demand. "Railtrack says it wants to take more risk but we have not seen the evidence. What it will not be able to do is make more money as a utility."

Commentary, page 29

AstraZeneca faces $6bn compensation payout

BY PAUL DURMAN

ASTRAZENECA, the new drugs company being formed by the merger of Britain's Zeneca with Astra of Sweden, will have to pay $1.7 billion (£1 billion) to Merck, the leading American pharmaceutical group.

This payment, along with a further $4.7 billion payment due in 2008, compensates Merck for rights it is giving up to Astra's new medicines. Through their Astra Merck joint venture, Merck was until recently heavily involved in the marketing of Losec, Astra's big-selling ulcer treatment.

Sir David Barnes, the Zeneca chief executive who is to become deputy chairman of the enlarged group, said the payments "are not unreasonably burdensome" for a company that is set to become the world's third-largest drugs company.

After shedding Zeneca's speciality chemicals business, the new group will have annual sales of about £9.6 billion, with about £7 billion from pharmaceuticals and annual pre-tax profits of more than £2 billion. After yesterday's share price rises the merged company will be capitalised at more than £45 billion.

AstraZeneca expects to make annual savings of $1.1 billion a year. This will involve the loss of 6,000 jobs, about 10 per cent of the combined total. Sir David said fewer than 1,000 jobs would be lost in the UK, but would not be more specific. There is to be a one-off charge of $1.2 billion.

News of the deal, which leaked on Tuesday evening, pushed Zeneca's shares 191p higher to more than £27. Some analysts suggested Astra or Zeneca might attract a bid from rivals such as Roche of Switzerland. However, the need for a multi-billion dollar write-off of goodwill makes a hostile acquisition difficult.

Zeneca and Astra were keen to stress their deal was a true merger of equals and that their managements were already acting as one. Zeneca's Tom McKillop, who will be chief executive of AstraZeneca, said their product portfolios were a perfect fit, and that similar management philosophy and science-based cultures made them natural partners.

AstraZeneca — a name chosen, Sir David said, because it alliterates better and follows a natural A-Z logic — will be a UK company with its headquarters in London. Its research and development headquarters, under Astra's Claes Wilhelmsson, will be in Sweden but it will retain "centres of excellence" in the UK and the US.

The group will be chaired by Percy Barnevik, the leading Swedish industrialist who is chairman of Investor, the Swedish investor that is Astra's largest shareholder.

Zeneca's shareholders will own 53.5 per cent of the new group. The terms of the proposed all-share deal are based on recent market valuations.

Stock market, page 30



Hakan Mogren, Astra's president and chief executive, left, and Tom McKillop yesterday

Bid fever boosts Shell shares

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

MERGER fever gripped the oil sector again yesterday as shares in Shell and Chevron raced ahead. Rumours that Shell was plotting a $65 billion (£39.4 billion) bid for Chevron caused Shell to gain 13p to 362p while Chevron stock soared 7 per cent to $88 in New York.

Expectations are also mounting that Shell will reveal more news on Monday of job cuts and asset write-downs. The company is meeting City oil analysts and is under pressure to take initiatives to reverse its worsening performance. Shell stood by its policy yesterday of refusing to discuss stock market rumours and oil analysts were sceptical of merger talks, pointing to the huge regulatory problem that would face a Shell and Chevron merger in America. Chevron has a huge position in refining and marketing while Shell has expanded its US downstream market share in a joint venture with Texaco.

Shell recently suffered a public setback when it scrapped a downstream European venture with Texaco, a weaker player than Chevron.

Speculation had been mounting that Shell would make an offer for Texaco but even agreement on the terms of a European joint venture was too difficult. One analyst was scornful of Shell's ability to generate such deals. "They need to sort out their management before they take on somebody else."

Chevron is meeting Wall Street analysts on Tuesday but a spokesman refused to comment on the rumours.

Kingfisher plans to open B&Q branch in China

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

KINGFISHER, the retailer, is stepping up the pace of its expansion with plans for a branch of B&Q, its DIY chain, in Shanghai and for 50 new Woolworths stores in the UK.

The Shanghai store is being developed in partnership with Shanghai Home-Dec Building Materials. Kingfisher is investing £5 million in the 70,000 sq ft store, which is due to open in June. B&Q already has branches in Taiwan.

Kingfisher, which recently revealed an ambitious opening programme for its B&Q Warehouse format in the UK, saw its shares rise 11 per cent to 603½p yesterday on the back of a buoyant third-quarter trading statement and despite some words of caution from Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive.

He said: "We believe that our businesses are well positioned to weather the effects of lower consumer confidence. Underlying sales growth in the third quarter was solid, although not as strong as in the first half. Since the period end sales growth has continued to slow and Christmas trading is proving very competitive."

In the third quarter Comet, the electricals chain, was the only part of the group to show a downturn in trade, with like-for-like sales slipping 1.6 per cent. To boost sales, the company is launching a home shopping website in the new year.

Like-for-like sales at B&Q in the quarter to October 31 were up 6 per cent. At Woolworths they were up 5.8 per cent and Superdrug saw a 5.1 per cent rise. Darty, the French electricals chain, saw like-for-like sales rise 7.2 per cent, aided by strong growth in multimedia.

Tempus, page 30

DFS hits record low in wake of sales warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES of DFS, the furniture retailer, dropped to an all-time low yesterday after it gave warning that sales have fallen sharply in the past few weeks.

Sir Graham Kirkham, executive chairman, told shareholders at the company's annual meeting that like-for-like sales in the first half of this year are expected to be 9 per cent down on the same period of last year. Total sales are set to be 5 per cent up on last year's first half.

Analysts cut their profit forecasts by up to £6 million for the year, to between £22 million and £24 million. DFS shares, which hit a high of 587½p in the spring, fell 8p to 157½p.

Courts, its rival furniture retailer, reported a 37 per cent drop in first-half pre-tax profit to £6.11 million and said that it is unlikely to match last year's full-year profits. It also said that it was slowing down the rate of its expansion in the UK until market conditions are more favourable and that it does not plan any significant overseas expansion in the short term.

Bruce Cohen, chief executive, noted that more customers are choosing to pay in cash rather than use interest-free credit, which accounts for about 40 per cent of Courts's sales and more than 50 per cent of DFS's sales.

Turnover at Courts, which has 200 of its 300 stores overseas, rose from £210 million to £225 million (£248 million at constant exchange rates).

On fully diluted earnings per share of 3.92p (7.39p) the company will pay an interim dividend of 1.05p. Its shares fell 100p to 220p.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5668.1	(+53.4)
Yield	2.85%	
FTSE All Share	2598.42	(+20.85)
Nikkei	14931.90	(+123.70)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9042.14	(+14.16)*
S&P Composite	1183.49	(+2.11)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾-%	(4¾%)
Long bond	104*-*	(103*-*)
Yield	4.98%*	(5.01%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6¾%	(6⅞%)
Lilfe long gilt future (Mar)	118.44	(117.86)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6585*	(1.6581)
London:		
$	1.6580	(1.6529)
DM	2.7653	(2.7620)
FFr	9.2737	(9.2636)
SFr	2.2518	(2.2570)
Yen	195.27	(197.63)
£ Index	99.6	(99.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6695*	(1.6675)
FFr	5.5985*	(5.5905)
SFr	1.3603*	(1.3617)
Yen	118.06*	(119.13)
$ index	105.4	(106.0)

Tokyo close Yen 118.62

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent15-day(Feb)	$10.35	($10.60)

GOLD

London close	$293.85	($294.55)

* denotes midday trading prices

Soros says pound will be target of speculators

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE SOROS told MPs yesterday that the pound will be a target for currency speculators if Britain opts to remain outside of EMU.

Appearing before the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee, the billionaire financier also warned MPs that the world economy is now in a deflationary environment, "not far away" from the global depression of the 1930s.

Mr Soros made his comments as the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee was holding its monthly interest rate meeting. Economists are convinced that the Bank will cut rates, but opinion is divided over whether the MPC will opt for a quarter-point cut or a more dramatic reduction.

Mr Soros, who reputedly made more than $1 billion forcing the pound out of the European exchange-rate mechanism in 1992, told the select committee that "sterling could become subject to speculative attacks, which would drive it in one direction or another".

He advised the Government to align the pound with the euro if it wants to avoid currency volatility. However, Mr Soros ruled out a formal euro target rate, claiming "it would give people like me a chance".

Mr Soros, who later signed copies of his new book for MPs, added that although the return of stability to markets had lessened the chance of a worldwide recession, the economy has "a great resemblance to the inter-war period".



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Seagram poised for huge shake-up

BY KIMBERLY MCDONALD

SEAGRAM said that a succession of box office flops at its Universal Pictures unit will lead to a second-quarter loss of about $65 million (about £39 million) for the filmed entertainment division.

The company is also expected to announce a restructuring plan and management shakeup that is likely to lead to thousands of job cuts when it takes control of PolyGram today, becoming the world's largest music company.

Sources said that thousands of Polygram employees will receive an unwelcome Christmas gift from their new employer — a P45 — because the reorganisation plan is expected to cut about 20 per cent, or 3,000, of Universal and Polygram's combined workforce of 15,500, along with a plan to shave $300 million in annual costs.

The cost-cutting measures will follow weeks of internal trouble at both companies. The disappointing showings at Seagram led to the ousting of Frank Biondi, the Universal Studios chairman, and Casey Silver, the Universal Pictures chairman.

Jan Cook, chief executive of Polygram, became the fourth senior executive to leave the company within two weeks. Mr Cook had been in the job only a few months after the departure of Alan Levy, the previous chief executive.

Labels such as Motown, Geffen, A&M and Mercury are expected to undergo downsizing. The combined music company is likely to consolidate Seagram's US music division into four large groups and rely heavily on Polygram, whose artists include All Saints, U2 and Elton John.

Industry sources have also speculated that Seagram would likely fold the film production and distribution assets of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment into Universal after Seagram's failed attempts to sell them.

The company also said Universal Pictures could post a "modest" loss for fiscal 1999 after a series of misfires this year including *Babe in the City*, which earned less than $9 million in its two weeks in release, and *Meet Joe Black*, which cost more than $90 million and grossed a little more than $39 million in the past two weeks.

Irish bank and insurer in £2.5bn merger

BY RICHARD MILES

IRISH PERMANENT, the bank, yesterday confirmed its merger with Irish Life to form the Republic's third-largest financial services group with a market capitalisation of Ir£2.8 billion (£2.5 billion).

David Went, chief executive designate, said the combined group, to be called Irish Life & Permanent, will have a customer base of between 800,000 and one million, almost a third of the Republic's population. Mr Went, who is currently managing director of Irish Life, said the merger would produce annual cost savings of at least Ir£12 million by the end of 2000, representing about 8 per cent of the group's total costs.

Job losses will be insignificant, said Mr Went, with no more than 100 positions eliminated from a total workforce of 3,600. Both companies will be equally represented on the board. Roy Douglas, currently chief executive of Irish Permanent, becomes chairman elect.

Mr Went said: "The key determinant of success in Europe is distribution, particularly distribution that you control and own. We will be the largest broker, the largest direct salesforce, the third-largest bank and the biggest mortgage player. A true bancassurer, like the ING Group in The Netherlands."

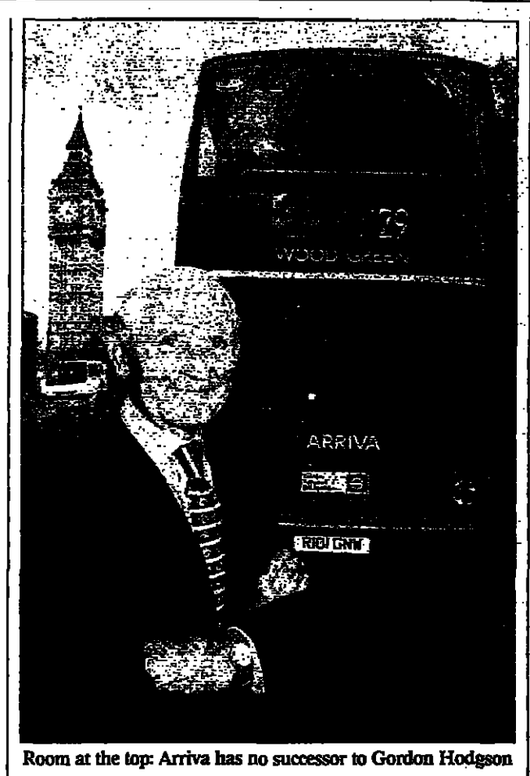
The deal takes the form of a recommended offer from Irish Permanent, with the shareholders of Irish Life given 60.85 new shares for each 100 of their original shares. After the deal is approved, holders of Irish Life stock will control more than two thirds of the group's enlarged capital.

John Bourke, chairman of Irish Permanent, said: "This is a historic day for retail financial services in Ireland and marks a major milestone for both Irish Permanent and Irish Life since their respective flotations in 1994 and 1991. The combined group will enjoy strong brand recognition and be among the leaders in Irish financial services."

Irish Life & Permanent is expected to be included in the Eurotop 300, the index of leading European stocks. The merged group is also expected to keep its dual listing in Dublin and London. Ironically, the biggest shareholder in the new group will be the asset management business of one of its biggest high street rivals. Bank of Ireland will own 7.39 per cent, while AIB, the Republic's largest bank, will control 3.77 per cent.

Reports of merger talks first surfaced in October, although the companies are believed to have discussed the idea of a merger for some time.

Tempus, page 30



Room at the top: Arriva has no successor to Gordon Hodgson

Arriva fails to sell car leasing arm

BY FRASER NELSON

ARRIVA, formerly Cowie Group, has abandoned its six-month attempt to sell its struggling car leasing business.

Its shares lost 16 per cent of their value yesterday as the car and bus company said that "extensive discussions" with "several parties" had failed to yield any offer at an acceptable price.

The announcement came three weeks after Arriva flatly denied reports that the disposal talks had stalled. It now intends to keep the old Cowie group intact and concentrate on finding more overseas bus acquisitions.

Sir Tom Cowie, the company's founder, said: "Selling the finance division would have been madness because there are so many synergies with the motor dealerships."

The City was also disappointed by the lack of progress in finding a replacement for Gordon Hodgson, 68, who said in June that he would stand down as chief executive.

Ockham in link with New London

BY ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

OCKHAM HOLDINGS, the Lloyd's of London underwriter formerly known as Sturge, unveiled a merger worth almost £100 million with New London Capital yesterday, although sources at Lloyd's believe that a counterbidder may yet emerge.

Ockham, which is believed to have beaten off stiff competition to secure a recommendation of the deal from the New London board, is offering six shares and 10p in cash for every five New London shares. At Ockham's closing price of 74½p the deal values shares in New London, an investment trust specialising in Lloyd's, at 91p each, or £54 million in total.

However, sources close to the insurance market were suggesting yesterday that there is another bidder. Indications are that the other bid may have included more cash and may have even been pitched at a higher level.

New London currently participates in 29 underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's with underwriting capacity of £93.5 million. However, it has been hit with disappointments. The company said: "In recent years results have been significantly affected by the losses arising from syndicate 657 managed by Chartwell Managing Agents."

If the Ockham offer is approved New London shareholders will own about 57 per cent of the enlarged group. Scottish Value Management is New London's largest investor, with a 24 per cent stake, and has undertaken to accept, although it could withdraw "in certain circumstances".

Job losses at Alstom train repair factory

ALSTOM, the Franco-British engineering group, yesterday said 300 jobs are to go at its train repair and maintenance factory at Eastleigh in Hampshire. The company said it had been forced to make the cuts, part of a programme of rationalisation, because of reduced workload. It said the job losses were needed to ensure the future of the Eastleigh site, which dates back to 1910, and will leave some 665 workers at the plant. Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, said: "This is a tragic knock-on of the failure of rail privatisation. Not only is customer safety being compromised by the rail operators: their failure to invest in new and renovated rolling stock is costing jobs."

Alstom's transport division employs 8,000 UK staff. Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the Rail Maritime and Transport union, said: "This shocking news is yet another example of railway workers paying a personal price for fragmentation of the rail industry." Mr Knapp said it was ironic that the maintenance job losses were announced on the very day that the Commons Transport Committee emphasised the need to enhance rail safety. Alstom said a reduced level of current and anticipated workload had resulted in the need to lower costs.

SHL over-ambitious

SHL GROUP, a provider of psychometric-testing services, said that over-ambitious expansion had led to a £2.1 million loss in its North American operations, while at home the company had had a "mixed and challenging" year. The company, which floated last year, reported group pre-tax profit, before exceptionals, up 11 per cent to £10.1 million in the year to September 30. Earnings per share were 10.1p (13.1p). The final dividend is 3.4p, making a total for the year of 5.1p.

Glaxo buys in Egypt

GLAXO WELLCOME is to buy 90 per cent of Egypt's Amoun Pharmaceuticals Industries (Apic) for £70 million. As a result of the acquisition, Glaxo said it would become the clear market leader in Egypt, increasing its market share from about 6 per cent to about 9 per cent. It will acquire domestic and export rights to 30 Apic products and assets valued at £11 million. The Egyptian pharmaceutical industry is valued at £600 million and is growing at an annual rate of about 10 per cent.

Zergo in merger talks

ZERGO, the specialist Internet security company that was recently given a boost when the Government announced plans to introduce "digital signatures", yesterday said it was in merger talks. The company, headed by Professor Henry Baker, said it was in "preliminary discussions" with Baltimore Technologies, a rival encryption company based in Dublin. Shares in Zergo rose 20 per cent to355p up from lows last month of 165p, valuing the company at nearly £60 million.

Optimism at Heal's

HEAL'S, the home furnishings retailer, helped buoy its battered sector with an "encouraging" 3 per cent growth in sales in the 11 weeks to November 28. Colin Pilgrim, chief executive, said he was cautiously optimistic about the Christmas period, which typically accounts for 15 per cent of the group's sales. Pre-tax profit, before exceptionals, for the year to September 12 rose 41 per cent to £3.3 million on sales up £2.5 million to £26.7 million. The final dividend is 3.75p, making a total of 5.75p.

Patriot American

PATRIOT AMERICAN HOSPITALITY has denied that it is planning to sell any of its European assets, contrary to a report in *The Times* on Monday November 23.

Vanguard Medica value plummets

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE value of Vanguard Medica fell to less than the value of its cash holdings yesterday after it abandoned work on a treatment for patients with chronic kidney failure.

Vanguard's shares fell 35p to a new low of 150p, prompting some small shareholders to call for the resignation of Robert Mansfield, its chief executive. Vanguard had been popular with private investors because of the apparently huge gains to be made from its warrants. But the failure of three products and disappointment at the marketing partner for its migraine drug has made the warrants worthless.

Mr Mansfield said results of a phase II trial of VML 252 on dialysis patients suggested the medicine offered only modest benefits. But it is also unpleasant to take, which made patients unwilling to adhere to the course of treatment.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, Vanguard's brokers, recently suggested that VML 252 was worth 150p of the 550p valuation it placed on the company. Lionel Wilson, biotechnology analyst at Townsley, estimates Vanguard's cash is worth 153p a share.

Mr Mansfield said Vanguard is only a couple of months away from filing for US approval of frovatriptan, the migraine drug.

In a bid to soften yesterday's bad news, Vanguard announced it was to work with 3M Pharmaceuticals, part of the US group, on a possible treatment for the liver disease caused by hepatitis C, a virus carried by an estimated 170 million people. This will not begin clinical trials until next year.

Anite makes German acquisition

ANITE GROUP, the computer networking company formerly known as Cray Electronics, yesterday acquired BIV, a German consultancy in a deal worth up to £19.8 million (Saeed Shah writes).

The company said the deal marks the completion of the initial phase of its acquisition strategy, in which the company has spent £43 million.

Anite announced pre-tax profits of £4 million for the six months to October 31 against a £0.5 million loss last time. Earnings per share were 1.1p (nil). There is no interim dividend.

MMC goes public on United bid

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE future of media access to Manchester United games and players is among 31 issues highlighted as potential blocks to the club's planned £625 million takeover by BSkyB.

In a highly unusual move, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission released an "issues letter" outlining the points that it is considering.

Among the issues is whether Manchester United would be expelled from the Premier League if it did not abide by collectively agreed television rights.

The MMC also asks whether the merger would enable BSkyB to block or limit access to United matches, staff and players by other television organisations or newspapers not owned or allied with companies related to BSkyB.

Such an "issues letter" is usually only sent to the companies invoved in a deal. Yesterday BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, said: "The Commission outlines the issues we would expect them to investigate and we have convincing responses to all of them."

The MMC is due to submit its report to Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, on March 12.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.78	2.60
Austria Sch.	20.47	18.81
Belgium Fr	60.26	55.36
Canada $	2.676	2.488
Cyprus Cyp £	0.6644	0.7929
Denmark Kr	11.11	10.22
Egypt	5.85	5.34
Finland Mrk	8.56	8.21
France Fr	9.75	8.97
Germany Dm	2.930	2.688
Greece Dr	489	450
Hong Kong $	13.67	12.47
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	18093	11093
Ireland Pt	1.1690	1.0800
Israel Shk	7.24	6.58
Italy Lira	2915	2678
Japan Yen	209.93	192.40
Malta	0.661	0.602
Netherlands Gld	3.310	3.015
New Zealand $	3.35	3.11
Norway Kr	13.12	12.18
Portugal Esc	296.38	274.35
S Africa Rd	10.57	9.61
Spain Pta	246.89	228.10
Sweden Kr	14.14	13.04
Switzerland Fr	2.408	2.190
Turkey Lira	620466	488872
USA $	1.765	1.622

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BT launches trial for interactive broadcasts

BY CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH TELECOM moved one step closer to becoming a fully fledged broadcaster yesterday when it launched a trial service that delivers VHS-quality news and entertainment directly to consumers' personal computers.

Trials of BT Interactive are taking place in 900 homes in West London. It is expected to be launched nationally within the next two years. BT said it had already invested more than £10 million in the service.

BT Interactive offers a connection to the Internet, which allows video and text to be downloaded at 60 times the speed of a conventional modem. Trial users are being charged £30 a month for unlimited access to the service.

BT Interactive has signed deals with media companies such as ITN, the BBC and Pearson Television, to provide content. Companies such as Citröen, Freemans and Interflora are also using the service to run television-style adverts.

As part of the service, users can watch ITN bulletins at any time of day. BT said the service would not clash with its investment in British Interactive Broadcasting, the digital television venture.

HOW DOES *ARDBEG* TASTE TO REGIS LEMAÎTRE?



Regis Lemaitre is Bars Manager of the Old Course Hotel, St. Andrews.

A lot of



(pear)

+

a measure of



(balance)

+

a suspicion of



(intrigue)

+

a degree of



(complexity)

+

with lashings of



(Islay)



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SAINT-JULIEN 4e cru classé
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12 Bottles only £237.95



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SAINT-EMILION grand cru classé
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TASTING CASE (3 bottles of the above 4 wines) £250

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Cantenac Brown	3e	cru classé	£248.95	Grand-Puy Ducasse	5e	cru classé	£261.95	Pomerol			
Saint-Julien				d'Armailhac	5e	cru classé	£259.95	La Pointe			£219.95
Ducru-Beaucaillou	2e	cru classé	£777.00	Saint-Estèphe				Bourgneuf			£225.95
Branaire-Ducru	4e	cru classé	£259.95	Cos d'Estournel	2e	cru classé	£755.88	Saint-Emilion			
Clos du Marquis			£225.95	Price per 12 bottle case				Grand Corbin	grand cru classé		£182.95
Léoville Poyferré	2e	cru classé	£356.95								

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Please indicate a safe place to leave if out (e.g. in garage) _____

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Expiry Date | | | | Switch Issue Number | | |

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Kingfisher presents best bill

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir Graham Kirkham must have regretted the timing of his trading statement almost as much as the content. Coming on the day that Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy revealed that Kingfisher was soaring above the high street gloom, Sir Graham's dismal tidings from DFS knocked the shares to a new low.

His stock now languishes at little more than a quarter of its high for the year. Luckily he still has the comforting knowledge that he took most of his millions out when the company floated and his children had the good sense to sell almost all of the fifth of the company that he had given them a couple of years ago, when the price was close to its peak.

His prediction that first-half sales would be down by 9 per cent if it were not for new store openings was an admission of the dire situation facing the business. Without expensive new openings, DFS would be sinking faster than a fat man on a foam rubber cushion. The company is not alone in finding the furnishings market tough, as Courts's figures underlined yesterday.

Cautious shoppers are wary of buying furniture, unimpressed by the offer of interest-free credit as compensation for inflated prices. Whether the Monetary Policy Committee opts to cut interest rates by a quarter or a half point today, its effect on consumer confidence will not be instant but its extra blow to the attractiveness of interest-free credit will be immediate.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy has said for years that the only way to win business is by persuading customers that there is real value to be had in your store. The numbers have changed but Woolworth has returned to its roots, when everything was priced at either threepence or sixpence. The stores seem set to be winners in this price-conscious Christmas, and their victory will be at the expense of Argos. That will do little to improve the humour of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, still grizzling that he bought the business on the back of misleadingly optimistic information.

But it is Kingfisher that is the exception, not Argos. Shoppers are continuing to keep their hands in their pockets, which makes it all the more remarkable that Phillips & Drew has decided that it will not sell its 24 per cent stake in Sears for about 320p a share. The firm insists that it can see value far beyond that in Sears, even though Sears's own broker struggled to get much further. But the brave P&D stance should not be allowed to preclude other shareholders from the chance of escape.

After Tuesday's board meeting it is likely that Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman, may feel obliged to give shareholders the chance to make up their own minds on any bid approach rather than slam the door on discussions and forget that they ever happened.

Looser reins for rail regulator

Chris Bolt was talking tough yesterday. As the new rail regulator, he clearly felt obliged to show Railtrack who was boss. Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, put on a dutiful show of near-cowering at the dreadful threats being made.

But Mr Corbett will probably not lose too much sleep over the prospect of having his profits bolted to the floor. He is not without ammunition to fend off the worst of the regulator's blows as the haggling over the new pricing regime gets under way.

Railtrack has a pivotal role to play in achieving John Prescott's dream of a country where — with the exception of one or two ministerial Jaguars — the car has been banished to allow efficient public sector transport to prevail.

The long-awaited fast rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel will only be completed with Railtrack's participation. When Mr Corbett agreed to help the Government salvage the project, he was well aware of the enhancement this would give to his future negotiating position. He did not spend those years in Grand Metropolitan without learning more about negotiating than the average railman. If the regulator is going to cut his profits, he will be forced to think hard about investing in projects such as the Channel Tunnel link, won't he?

And maybe he could lose interest in London Underground, too, if his returns were to be severely restricted. Sorting out London's crumbling infrastructure is an increasingly pressing problem and Railtrack could play a crucial role. It has made clear its interest in the Underground and it is the obvious contender to take over the tracks. But Mr Corbett will want to know whether Mr Bolt will make it worth his while to venture down the escalator.

Those investors who bought Railtrack shares at the time of the privatisation have made a handsome profit. That they owe far more to Clare Short than to those who have run the company since. Ms Short, in her role as Opposition spokesman on transport, intimated in her usual forceful manner that a Labour government would effectively renationalise the railways. That ensured a give-away price for the float. Mr Bolt will find he cannot punish Mr Corbett and his shareholders for the effects of Ms Short's shortcomings.

Exit would be better than entry

Earlier this week the sleuths on the *Times* Diary discovered that Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, features among those who advertise their services as "political consultants" in the latest edition of *Yellow Pages*. Their first thought was that this might be a wise, though slightly premature, effort to bolster his income once his ministerial career comes to an end. But no. Apparently, the listing was a mistake. Mr Robinson had wanted his telephone number to appear under "political organisations".

The poor chap really is accident prone. Very few people sign off annual reports that declare they have been paid £200,000 when the fact is they haven't received a bean but that was an earlier mishap to befall Mr Robinson.

His unlucky streak seems to have touched some of those who worked for companies in which Mr Robinson had a hand. They saw their futures threatened as their pension funds vanished into the Maxwell morass. Unlike Mr Robinson, they did not have the compensating good luck of an offshore trust fund on which to fall back. The Paymaster General's oversights are becoming increasingly embarrassing to the Government and his days at the Treasury must be numbered. But on this record, the misplaced entry in *Yellow Pages* is unlikely to drum up much business.

Listening to shells

WHAT combinations are left in the mega-marriage market? The field is getting thinner after three in pharmaceuticals and three in big oil. How about Shell? The twin-headed leviathan has discouraged talk of a full merger with Texaco after a series of deals between the two. Chevron, a constituent of the Dow Jones Average, was the choice yesterday, if not among students of US anti-trust. Both groups are meeting analysts next week but these rumours would be silly if so many of them had not been true.

Greenalls plans to return £100m to shareholders

BY DOMINIC WALSH

GREENALLS, the pub and hotel operator, is to return about £100 million to shareholders from the sale of its tenanted pubs to Nomura International, the Japanese securities house, for £370 million.

The payout will take the form of a special payment of 34p a share, although this will not be paid until after April 6 to save on tax. The sale, which is subject to shareholder approval, is expected to be completed on January 20.

Lord Daresbury, chief executive, said the disposal would allow the company to focus resources on its faster-growth hotel, leisure and branded pub businesses. However, in view of the long investment lead times, the money will initially be used to pay off debt.

The sale involves all but 81 of the 1,322-strong Inn Partnership estate. Some 30 pubs will transfer to the company's managed arm, and the rest will be sold off over time. The loss on disposal, net of goodwill previously written off, will be £1.3 million. Reorganisation costs will mean a further provision of £11 million.

Lord Daresbury said the sale, together with the special dividend and a planned share consolidation, would be earnings-dilutive short term. Its shares lost 7½ to 343½p as analysts estimated the impact on earnings at about 5 per cent.



Daresbury: resources shift

A spokesman for Nomura's Principal Finance Group said it had no intention "for the time being" of merging Inn Partnership with the Unique Pub Company, its recently formed vehicle for 2,600 former Innntrepreneur pubs. He said the acquisition would be funded with bank debt.

The news came as Greenalls reported a 0.5 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptionals to £158.1 million in the year to September 25, from turnover 13 per cent lower at £983.4 million.

Excluding disposals, profits rose 4.2 per cent. Earnings per share reached 42.54p (41.72p) and a final dividend of 10.51p makes a total of 17.71p (16.71p).

Trading in its pub and restaurant division suffered in the summer as the poor weather and the World Cup magnified the slowdown in consumer spending in its North West and Midlands heartland. Like-for-like sales fell by 2.1 per cent, widening to 4 per cent since the year end. Inn Partnership's like-for-like beer volumes fell 5.3 per cent.

Hotels and leisure were more resilient, with De Vere Hotels reporting a 24 per cent rise in comparable profits and Village Leisure rising 28 per cent.

Both will benefit from the group's decision to shift capital expenditure towards accommodation, health and fitness and city-centre pub brands such as Henry's café bars.

Total investment this year will be cut from £112 million to £95 million.

David S Smith makes 800 redundant

BY ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT hundred jobs have been lost at David S Smith, the paper and packaging company. The redundancies are equivalent to 10 per cent of the company's workforce and come as it struggles against recession in UK manufacturing and intensifying competition within its own industry.

Shares of the company fell 8p to 97½p yesterday, their lowest level for 12 years, after it reported sharply lower profits. In late 1996 David S Smith shares touched 344p.

Stock market sentiment was also knocked because the company served shareholders with a depressing assessment of its prospects.

Alan Clements, chairman, said: "The difficult trading conditions that have characterised our packaging and paper markets over the past two years continued to depress results. The outlook for the present year remains unsatisfactory."

Profit before tax was 30 per cent lower for the six months to October 31. Smith made £20.7 million against £29.3 million. Smith paid £8 million in the six months in redundancy and rationalisation payments, and expects to spend another £4 million in the second half.

The interim dividend payment for the half year is to be the same at 2.7p. Peter Williams, chief executive, said that he expected the full-year payment to be at least the same as last year despite the fact that it was likely to be uncovered by earnings per share. Mr Williams said the payment may even be increased.

Tempus, page 30

Venture capitalists neck and neck in race for Coral

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CINVEN and Deutsche Bank's venture capital arm are understood to be neck and neck in the race to buy the Coral bookmaking chain from Ladbroke, with the Tote trailing in third place.

The two venture capitalists are thought to have bid about £375 million for the 833-shop chain compared to £345 million by the Tote. Stanley Leisure, which is thought to have offered abut £330 million, confirmed last night that it was "no longer involved in the bidding".

The three shortlisted parties, from a second-round list of about a dozen, are currently conducting due diligence before they submit final offers. There appears to be no formal time limit, although the chances of an announcement before Christmas appear to be receding.

One source close to the negotiations said: "This is where the fun starts. As venture capitalists have a habit of going in high then lowering their offers, the Tote is faced with deciding how, if at all, it should respond. It has turned into a poker game."

The one certain winner is Ladbroke, which was forced to put Coral up for sale in September after an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Despite fears that it would lose money in a forced sale, the level of interest makes it likely it will get back the £363 million it paid to Bass in January — despite having removed from the package 50 Coral shops in the Irish Republic and eight in Jersey.

The Tote's bid has venture capital backing from Electra and Candover with debt finance from Lloyds, HSBC and Royal Bank of Scotland. Both the financial bidders are thought likely to retain the current Coral management team, led by Vaughn Ashdown and Trevor Beaumont.

Shake-up at Smith & Nephew

BY CARL MORTISHED

SMITH & NEPHEW has launched a worldwide restructuring of its business involving plant closures, redundancies and management upheaval in an attempt to reduce costs and restore earnings growth.

The healthcare group is taking a £70 million charge over the next two years to pay for the closure of a third of its 21 plants resulting in some 800 redundancies. The reduction in the asset base is expected to produce savings of £35 million by 2002 and the company plans to increase margins to 17 per cent by 2001.

Chris O'Donnell, chief executive, said that no closures or lay-offs were expected in the UK. He explained the company was modernising its internal structure from a series of regional businesses serving local markets to global businesses focused around three units: Orthopaedics, Endoscopy and Wound Management.

The company is to sell its US bracing business, which has revenues of £65 million, and could fetch £130 million.

Wickes sees slower sales

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

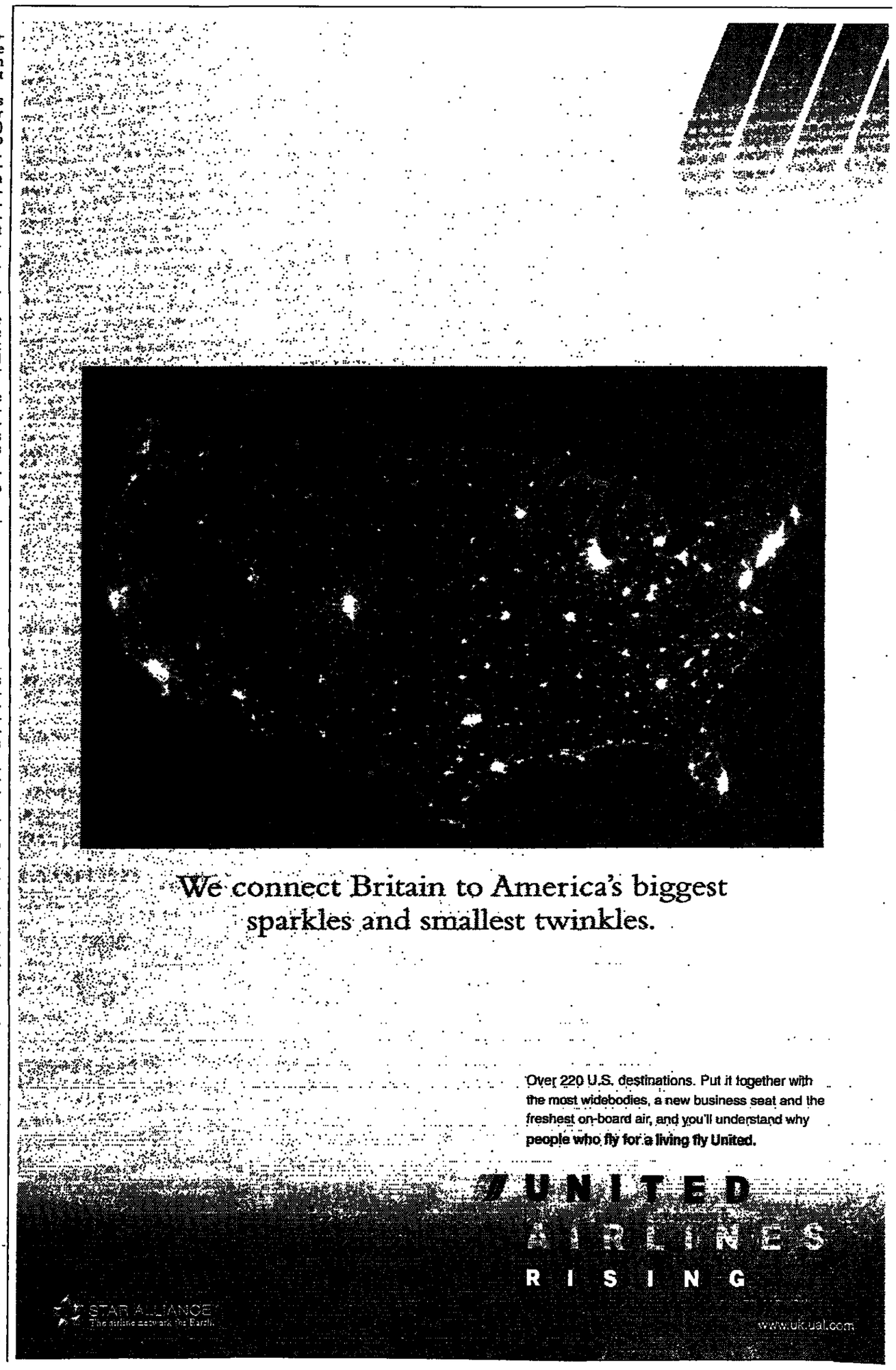
WICKES, the DIY and builder's merchant chain, reported slower sales in the second half but reassured the market that operating profits should be in line with internal expectations.

The group, whose former managers are still under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office following an accounting scandal two years ago, said that like-for-like sales for the 22 weeks to November 29 were 3.9 per cent higher. For the 48 weeks, including the first half, they were 4.6 per cent ahead.

Six refurbished stores saw growth of 20 per cent and a higher gross margin. The company plans to refurbish 37 stores during 1999, and a total of 110 over the next three years.

The SFO said yesterday that it was continuing its investigation into the accounting scandal that led to the departure of Henry Sweetbaum, the former chairman and chief executive, Les Rosenthal, group trading director, and Chris Miles, commercial director.

Wickes shares closed up 9p at 176½p yesterday.



STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Zeneca gives cause for celebrations all round

CHAMPAGNE corks will have been popping round at Mercury Asset Management again as Carol Galley and her colleagues celebrated what is the City equivalent of winning the lottery.

MAM, which is now part of Merrill Lynch, the US securities house, holds a 5 per cent stake in **Zeneca** and was last night reckoned to be sitting on a paper profit of £156 million after news of the proposed merger with Sweden's Astra.

At the start of trading on Monday, Zeneca stood at £24. By the close of business yesterday it led the risers among the top 100 companies with a leap of 191p to £27.11. That is a profit of 311p on each of the estimated 47.48 million shares MAM holds.

But MAM was not the only one to strike it rich on the news of the £40.6 billion merger. *Professional investors and* traders who gave 23½p for the call in the January series of Zeneca traded options doubled their money as the premium soared to 47p.

The clamour for Zeneca shares also spilled over into other drug companies with **Glaxo Wellcome** adding 18p to £19.56, **SmithKline Beecham** 33p to 790p, while **Smith & Nephew** put on 8½p at 168½p after outlining details of job losses, acquisitions and a share buy-back.

News of the Zeneca merger also bolstered the rest of the equity market which rallied from opening falls. But with investor attention now focused on the outcome of today's vote by the Monetary Policy Committee share prices closed below their best levels. The FTSE 100 index, down 43 points at one stage, closed 53.4 up at 5,669.1, after briefly touching 5,691.7. A total of *919 million* shares changed hands, swollen by bed and breakfast transactions for the benefit of tax purposes.

Optimism about a rate cut is *growing. City Index, the City* bookmaker, has opened a book on the size of any potential cut. *Last night the spread* was 34 to 37 basis points.

Shell was one of the heaviest traded stocks among blue chips with 18.87 million shares registered as the price advanced 12½p to 362p. The company refused to comment on claims that it intends to bid for Chevron. Shell meets brokers on Monday, to reassure them that it can cope with the merger mania being seen elsewhere in the *industry and the low oil price.*

ScottishPower, whose shares took a dive at the beginning of the week after confirming the terms of a £4 billion merger with PacifiCorp, the US utility, was hoisted on talk of a counterbid by another American power group — not for PacifiCorp but ScottishPower itself. Shares in the Scottish multi-utility were up 22p *to 629p.*

Dixons, 4p easier at 744p, and **Imperial Group**, 9p softer at 629p, have made welcome returns as constituents of the top 100 companies after the latest quarterly reshuffle by the FTSE 100 index steering committee.

They have been joined by another tobacco company, **Gallaher**, unchanged at 438p, and more surprisingly by the slimmed-down **Hanson**, up 4p at 452p, which lost its place after being split into four separate companies a couple of years back. They will replace high-tech stocks **Misys**, down 6p at 396p, and **Sema Group**, ½p lighter at 519½p, which have been hit by recession worries. Also losing their places are **British Land**, down 28½p at 450p, and **Nycomed Amersham**, 8¼p lower at 355p.

Kingfisher surged 61p to 604p after reporting a less than expected slowdown in like-for-like sales during the third quarter.

A fresh burst of speculative support *lifted* Sears 32p to 270½p. Once again there is talk that former Amber Day *boss Philip Green may* have got the backing to put together an offer worth 300p a share.

A *warning about full-year* profits left **Courts (Furnishers)** nursing a loss of 10p at 220p, after briefly touching 207½p. By contrast, Heal's raced up 25p to 122½p on the back of results.

A gloomy trading update also hit **DFS Furniture**, down 8p at 157½p. That compares with a peak this year of 587½p. Wickes, whose chief executive is Bill Grimsey, has also been hit by the slowdown on the high street, but the shares shrugged that off to close 8½p better at 176p.

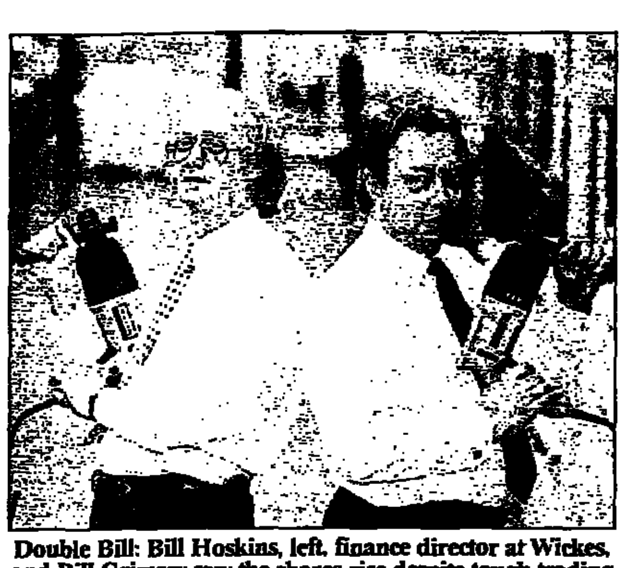
Zergo Holdings, which hit a low of 165p in November, has received an approach from Baltimore Technologies, the Dublin-based encryption security company. The shares responded with a rise of 60p to 355p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices were bolstered by a firm performance by US Treasury bonds and optimism about a *cut in interest rates later today.* Several pension funds were reported to be switching *into the longer end of the market* which outperformed shorter-dated issues.

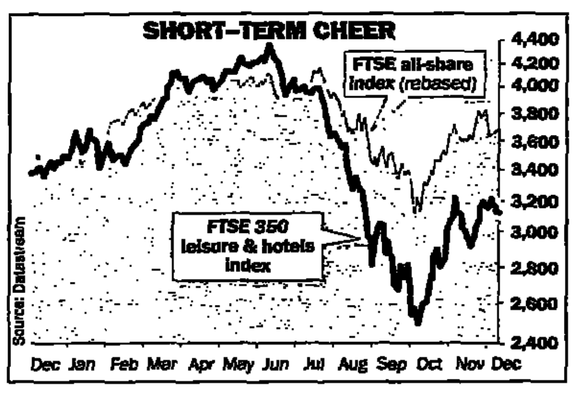
In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 58p to £118.48 in low turnover that saw *19,000 contracts completed.*

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 surged 75p to £118.80, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 10p better at £107.39.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were slightly higher in late morning trade as technology issues continued to rally. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 14.16 at 9,042.14.



Double Bill: Bill Hoskins, left, finance director at Wickes, *and Bill Grimsey saw the shares rise despite tough trading*



THE downturn in consum*er spending has also affect*ed the leisure sector. But there is evidence to support *a revival in fortunes, albeit* a brief one.

Charterhouse Tilney, the *broker, in its latest survey* of the sector is forecasting a bounce in the fortunes of lei*sure companies over Christ*mas and the new year followed by a slowdown later in 1999.

Melanie Sharp at Charterhouse says the long-term prognosis for the sector is bleak with cutbacks in corporate travel and entertain*ing having already hit the* likes of Ladbroke, down 9½p at 217p. But these ef*fects have still to filter* through to other hotel chains such as Millenium *& Copthorne, unchanged at* 399½p, and Thistle, steady at 128p.

The tour operators offer one of the few bright spots helped by the temporary return of consumer confidence with Thomson Travel, up 6p at 152½p, and Airtours, 9½p better at 367p, seen as "buys".

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9042.14 (+14.16)
S&P Composite	1183.49 (+2.11)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14931.90 (+123.70)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10361.29 (+10.21)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	1091.99 (+13.64)
Sydney:	
AO	2750.0 (-21.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4663.68 (-35.66)
Singapore:	
Straits	1424.59 (+30.98)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3298.26 (+3.47)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3772.61 (+7.20)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1306.50 (+1.90)
London:	
FT 30	3398.8 (+3.5)
FTSE 100	5669.1 (+53.4)
FTSE 250	4777.9 (+20.2)
FTSE 350	2680.7 (+23.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2601.54 (+24.90)
FTSE All-Share	2586.42 (+20.85)
FTSE Non Financials	2646.12 (+27.45)
FTSE Fixed Interest	155.56 (+0.48)
FTSE Govt Secs	114.80 (+0.46)
Bargains	65848
SEAQ Volume	919.0m
US$	1.6580 (+0.0052)
German Mark	2.7652 (+0.0034)
Exchange Index	99.6 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4147
£:SDR	1.1846
RPI	164.5 Oct (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	161.9 Oct (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

2nd St Dvds Equity Units	179	...
AIM VCT	98	...
Airtours Sub Cnv 2004	100½	...
Artisan (UK)	5¼	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	58	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	118½	...
Chariot	117½	...
Collective Assets Trust	117	...
Connaught	149½	...
First Active	294½	+ 12
Five Arr Uts Cv Ln 2040	118¾	− ½
Garban	231½	...
MHIT Secs Zero Div Pf	52¼	+ ¼
Marley B	11	...
Monthly High Inc Geared	50½	− ¼
Natl Bldg Mtls Cv Pf	105	...
Natural Building Mtls	5	...
Offshore Tool & Energy	15½	...
Piccadilly Growth Ts	95	...
REXAM B (100)	94	...
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...
Thistle Hotels Prf	15	...
Xenova Warrants	13½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

ILP n/p (7)	1¾	...
PPL Therapeutics n/p (80)	17	− 2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Zergo	355	+ 60	+ 20.3
Hewetson	175	+ 25	+ 16.6
Tinsley (E)	75	+ 10½	+ 16.2
Sears	270½	+ 32	+ 13.4
Energis	1232½	+135	+ 12.3
Kingfisher	604	+ 61	+ 11.2
Fibernet	337½	+ 31	+ 10.1
Stagecoach	252¾	+ 22¾	+ 9.8
Zeneca	2711	+191	+ 7.5
Northern	236½	+ 15½	+ 7.0
Rentokil Ini	405¾	+ 24¾	+ 6.4
Provident	915	+ 55	+ 6.3
RMC Gp	845	+ 46	+ 5.7
Burmah Castrl	918	+ 48	+ 5.5

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Chiroscience	272½	− 31	− 10.2
Total Systems	45½	− 18	− 28.3
BCO Technologies	107½	− 40	− 27.1
Murray Ent Wts	6	− 1½	− 20.0

IT hot properties cooling

IT WAS a bad day for the IT sector yesterday. Both Sema and Misys, two of Britain's hottest IT stocks, found themselves squeezed out of the FTSE 100 while Sage, the accounting software group, found its shares downgraded in spite of reporting upbeat results.

Fund managers seem to have taken a swift a turn off the information superhighway remarkably soon after finding their way on to it. Yes, recession looms and IT valuations are questionable, but will low-growth Imperial Tobacco and Gallaher really steady the nerves of long-term investors?

Ironically, Sema saw its share price rise yesterday, while Misys slipped only a few pence. This was partly in relief that the two companies would no longer be buffeted by the many outside factors (such as foreign banks collapsing) that tend to hit FTSE 100 companies harder than their *non-FTSE 100* counterparts. And for all that, neither Misys or Sema is finished: a long period of bouncing in and out of the index could be about to begin. *Of the two,* Sema is the company to watch, given that a large US deal is on the cards.

The smaller, but still sizeable, *Sage suffered* a frustrating day. It proved that it is extremely good at selling affordable accounting software packages to small and medium-sized companies. Yet the company found its shares sliding because of disappointments about organic growth. Stripping out the successful acquisition of State of the Art in the US left the company with operating profit up only 11 per cent.

Sage shares trade on a forward p/e of nearly 43. By any standards this is expensive. Perhaps it is not so hard to see why so many fund managers have started craving nicotine.

Kingfisher

UNDER normal circumstances, news that a company has "solid third-quarter sales growth" does not cause a stampede for the shares. These are not normal times, especially for retailers, and Kingfisher's measured tones were enough to push its share price 11 per cent higher.

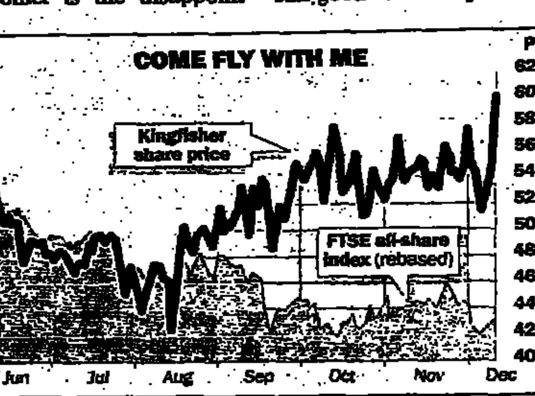
*Kingfisher's secret of suc*cess is that it is hardly exposed to furniture and clothing, retailing segments that are doing really badly. Yet it is in segments that are doing OK. This bodes very well for its performance over Christmas, a prospect approached with more fear than hope by most of Kingfisher's peers.

B&Q, once again, was the star of the Kingfisher show with 6 per cent like-for-like sales growth. Figures of this sort, plus the ambitious Warehouse opening programme and the plans to open a store in mainland China, make B&Q one of the most interesting retail growth stories.

Woolworths, so often written off, saw like-for-like sales growth of 5.8 per cent. The plans to open another 50 stores show how much faith Kingfisher has in the new formats developed for Woolies.

Comet is the disappointment and, *although the elec*tricals market is undoubtedly tough, it looks as if Dixons is *increasing its share.*

Kingfisher now dubs itself "the European retail group", *but much of its newly ac*quired European operation does not even feature in these *figures.* Despite the recent run Kingfisher shares are still good value. Buy.



David S Smith

IS IT worth investing in paper and packaging companies such as David S Smith? The short answer is no. For that matter the long answer is no, too.

Smith is a bellwether that suffers and prospers with the wider economic climate. With UK manufacturing in *recession, Smith is currently* squeezed. There is a temptation to believe that Smith's *problems will resolve them*selves as and when the economy perks up. But while some *of the pressure may be re*lieved, there are a range of factors lined up that make life increasingly, and irreversibly, more difficult for Smith and its peers.

There is overcapacity in production and slackening demand. In commercial packing customers are keen to use less material because it is cheaper, and because less means more enviromental friendliness. In paper and related office supplies Smith finds itself trudging towards electronic, and paperless, working environments.

Deflation is a fact of life. They have precious little pricing power over customers; they face constant currency worries and competition from cheap developing world imports and from newer types of packing.

The management is acting to mitigate the difficulties. Shares may also be support*ed by the 10 per cent dividend* yield. It is a takeover possibility, too. Nevertheless, sell.

Irish Life & Perm

A DESIRE for size, not cost savings, is behind the union of Ireland's leading mortgage provider and life insurer. There will be savings from the merger of Irish Life and Irish Permanent but the deal is really about critical mass.

With a market capitalisation of £2.6 billion, the combined group will become the Republic's third-largest financial services group and the fifth-largest company listed on the Dublin stock exchange. *It may sound small* beer by London standards, but the move virtually guarantees *Irish Life & Perma*nent a position in any euroland index.

*The merger is also predicat*ed on cross-selling, in much the same way as the marri*age of Citibank and Travel*ers of the US. Even allowing for some duplication in the *joint customer base of 1.5 mil*lion, the combined group will still have a relationship with *one in two Irish adults.* As Citibank and Travelers *found, pursuing such a strate*gy amid economic and financial instability can prove near disastrous, certainly for top executives. But with no sign of a slowdown in the Irish economy Irish Life & Permanent must have a better than good chance of making the marriage work.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	917-909	Mar	1056-1054
Mar	952-950	May	1073-1070
May	971-970	Jul	1095-1082
Jul	990-988	Sep	1110-1096
Sep	1009-1006		
Dec	1033-1030		Volume: 11777

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Jan	1895-1885	Sep	1640 SLR
Mar	1725-1722	Nov	1620 SLR
May	1680 SLR	Jan	unq
Jul	1660 SLR		Volume: 4862

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	240.7-240.1
Spot: 245.0		Dec	244.7-241.1
Mar	246.0-245.8	Mar	243.7-243.0
May	245.3-247.5	May	253.7-247.0
Aug	249.2-246.0		Volume: 3661

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 8

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	50.39	62.51	88.55
(+/−)	+1.54	+1.32	+4.34
Eng/Wales	50.04	61.58	85.79
(+/−)	+1.55	+1.10	+2.80
%	+26.0	+8.0	+9.0
Scotland	55.00	62.15	101.52
(+/−)	+2.64	+2.23	+12.29
%	−5.0	−8.0	−4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	9.55	−0.15
Brent 15 day (Jan)	10.15	−0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	10.35	−0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	11.20	−0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	11.60	−0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	114 (n/c)	116 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	93 (−2)	95 (−2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	52 (−3)	53 (−5)
Naphtha	106 (−10)	109 (−10)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	91.25-91.50	Mar	101.50-01.75
Jan	95.50 SLR	Apr	103.25 BID
Feb	99.25-99.50		Vol: 36965

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	10.09-10.11	Apr	10.87 BID
Feb	10.34-10.38	May	11.16-11.20
Mar	10.60 BID		Vol: 35688

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	79.50	Jan	78.50
Mar	80.75	Mar	80.75
May	82.75	May	81.75
Jul	84.75	Sep	79.50
Sep	81.50	Nov	81.50
Volume: 471		Volume: 61	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	242.0
Apr	323.0	325.0
May	unq	335.0
		Volume: 137

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Jan 48.00-49.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 98	850	850	850
Jan 99	855	850	850
Feb 99	860	—	860
Apr 99	960	947	947
Vol: 24 lots		Open interest: 2418	

Index: 877 −7

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Cash:	3mth:	Rudolf Wolff Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1485.0-1485.5	1511.0-1512.0	2009100
Lead ($/tonne)	521.50-522.00	493.00-494.00	275975
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	975.50-976.00	991.00-991.50	401480
Tin ($/tonne)	5305.0-5315.0	5250.0-5255.0	45625
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1253.0-1253.5	1260.0-1261.0	3384250
Nickel ($/tonne)	3760.0-3765.0	3825.0-3830.0	201564

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 98	118.07	118.31	118.07	118.39	357
Previous open interest 112736	Mar 99	118.05	118.80	118.05	118.44	24348
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				116.19	0
	N/A					
Five Year Gilt	Dec 98				109.48	0
Previous open interest 395	Mar 99				109.54	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	113.40	114.17	113.40	114.03	11759
Previous open interest 41915	N/A					
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 98	136.24	136.24	136.08	136.13	711
	Mar 99	135.14	135.15	134.95	134.98	2562
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 98	93.540	93.560	93.520	93.530	16670
	Mar 99	94.220	94.240	94.200	94.210	16747
Previous open interest 1153805	Jun 99	94.610	94.610	94.580	94.570	14985
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 98	96.605	96.630	96.595	96.615	39219
Previous open interest 2432682	Mar 99	96.870	96.890	96.870	96.875	54338
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 98	96.580	96.620	96.580	96.610	9329
Previous open interest 664032	Mar 99	96.860	96.890	96.860	96.880	3489
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 98	98.530	98.550	98.520	98.540	4284
Previous open interest 167357	Mar 99	98.630	98.650	98.590	98.630	10559
Three Mth Euro	Dec 98	96.555	96.560	96.555	96.585	196
Previous open interest 19645	Mar 99				96.875	0
FTSE 100	Dec 98	5630.0	5703.0	5580.0	5671.0	34713
Previous open interest 220039	Mar 99	5674.5	5746.0	5638.0	5714.5	15571

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance House 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8¼ Low 7 Week fixed: 6⅞
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¾; 3 mth 5¾; Sell: 2 mth 5¾; 3 mth 5¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅝-6½	6⅝-6½	6½-6⅜	6⅛-6	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅞-6¾	6¾-6⅝	6⅝-6½	6⅜-6¼	5⅞-5¾
Interbank:	6¾-6⅝	6⅝-6½	6½-6⅜	6¼-6⅛	5⅞-5¾
Overnight: open 7¼, close 7½					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅝	n/a	6½	6¼	5⅞
Sterling CDs:	6¾-6⅝	6⅝-6½	6½-6⅜	6¼-6⅛	5⅞-5¾
Dollar CDs:	5.45	n/a	5.14	4.98	4.90
Building Society CDs:	6⅞-6⅝	6⅝-6½	6½-6⅜	6¼-6⅛	5⅞-5¾

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4¾	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅝
Deutschemark:	n/a	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3½-3⅜	3⅝-2⅞
French Franc:	n/a	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3½-3⅜	3⅝-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	n/a	1⅜-1¼	1⅜-1¼	1⅜-1¼	1⅜-⅞
Yen:	n/a	¼-⅛	⅜-¼	⅜-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $293.30-293.60 Close: $293.60-294.10 High: $294.30-294.80
Low: $293.25-293.75 AM: $293.50 PM: $294.20
Krugerrand: $295.00-297.00 (£177.50-179.50)
Platinum: $351.00 (£211.70) Silver: $4.825 (£2.905) Palladium: $286.00 (£172.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for December 9	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Amsterdam	3.1096-3.1189	3.1149-3.1181	⅜-¼pr	2⅛-2⅞pr
Brussels	56.900-57.120	57.001-57.098	18-13pr	47-40pr
Copenhagen	10.492-10.529	10.510-10.524	⅞-⅝pr	3-2⅜pr
Dublin	1.1096-1.1158	1.1130-1.1141	30-24pr	84-76pr
Frankfurt	2.7595-2.7676	2.7640-2.7665	⅞-⅝pr	2¼-2pr
Lisbon	282.91-283.84	283.46-283.70	¼-⅛pr	2¼-2pr
Madrid	234.79-235.50	235.26-235.50	65-55pr	186-168pr
Milan	2726.2-2742.5	2737.1-2739.4	78-62pr	214-192pr
Montreal	2.5559-2.5632	2.5559-2.5589	0.34-0.27pr	0.69-0.59pr
New York	1.6562-1.6596	1.6575-1.6584	0.145-0.125pr	0.498-0.467pr
Oslo	12.494-12.567	12.520-12.535	¼-⅛ds	¼-⅛ds
Paris	9.2500-9.2820	9.2704-9.2771	2¾-2½pr	7¼-6¾pr
Stockholm	13.315-13.369	13.342-13.357	¾-½pr	1-½pr
Tokyo	195.11-196.53	195.13-195.40	1⅛-1pr	3-2⅞pr
Vienna	19.412-19.474	19.445-19.463	⅜-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Zurich	2.2481-2.2577	2.2507-2.2523	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2¾pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

Australia	1.6207-1.6220
Austria	11.7120-11.7170
Belgium (Com)	34.340-34.380
Canada	1.5415-1.5425
Denmark	6.3292-6.3332
France	5.5827-5.5847
Germany	1.6645-1.6650
Hong Kong	7.7473-7.7478
Ireland	1.4910-1.4917
Italy	1648.5-1649.1
Japan	117.63-117.73
Malaysia	3.7898-3.8098
Netherlands	1.8762-1.8772
Norway	7.5460-7.5560
Portugal	170.65-170.80
Singapore	1.6464-1.6494
Spain	141.60-141.70
Sweden	8.0102-8.0202
Switzerland	1.3558-1.3568

Argentina peso*	1.6586-1.6607
Australia dollar	2.6882-2.6942
Bahrain dinar	0.6175-0.6315
Brazil real*	1.9937-1.9982
China yuan	unq
Cyprus pound	0.8105-0.8295
Finland markka	8.3200-8.4570
Greece drachma	458.60-468.80
Hong Kong dollar	12.8497-12.8582
India rupee	69.75-71.35
Indonesia rupiah	11762.8-12762.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4955-0.5065
Malaysia ringgit	6.2846-6.3216
New Zealand dollar	3.2051-3.2113
Pakistan rupee	80.9000 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9625-6.0975
Singapore dollar	2.7302-2.7368
S Africa rand (com)	9.7710-10.2710
U A E dirham	6.0150-6.1510

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	140	13½	19½	25½	4	10	12½
(*148½)	160	4½	11	17	15	21½	23½
Abbey Nat	1150	89	138	170	40	84½	102½
(*1194)	1200	62	113	145½	60	107	124
Allid Dom	500	59	82	94	10	25½	38½
(*544½)	550	28½	54	68½	30½	47½	62½
BAA	650	48½	75½	90	16½	35½	45
(*679)	700	21½	47	64	40	59	68½
BAT Ind	650	63	—	—	21	—	—
(*693)	700	35	—	—	41½	—	—
Barclays	1250	95½	158	198	71	132	166½
(*1266)	1300	71½	134½	179	96½	160	185
Bass	800	51	95	110	44½	76	78½
(*826½)	850	29	71½	86½	73	102½	105
Boots	900	70	110½	134½	25½	57½	71
(*939)	950	42	85½	103	49½	76½	95
Br Airways	360	27	49½	57½	23	38½	50½
(*361)	390	15	36½	45	41	55½	68
BP	850	74	111	131	29½	55	65
(*892)	900	46	84	106½	46	79	89½
Br Steel	90	12	15½	20	2½	6	10½
(*95)	100	6½	11½	14½	7	10½	16
C&W	700	66	105½	133	25	59½	77½
(*734)	750	40	82	110	51	85½	103½
CGU Plc	850	63½	105½	128½	43½	94½	112½
(*859)	900	41½	83	105½	75½	122½	139½
GlaxoW	1900	135½	212	269	58	127	160
(*1966½)	2000	82	162	221	105	176	211
HSBC	1600	111	187½	227½	86	168½	182½
(*1612)	1700	67	140	178	143	222½	232½
Halifax	850	48	31½	104	40½	72	87
(*850½)	900	25	58½	80	69½	100	113½
ICI	550	48½	73	92½	28	58½	74½
(*566½)	600	25½	51	71½	56½	87½	103½
Land Sec	750	46½	74½	85	30	33½	44½
(*773½)	800	20½	43	59½	45½	57	69½
M&S	390	32½	50½	60	11½	26½	31
(*407½)	420	17	35½	45½	26	41½	46
Natl Pwr	500	41	63½	70½	19½	26	39½
(*521)	550	18½	40	46½	41	52	66
Nat West	1100	83	126	158½	62½	116	134½
(*1101)	1150	46½	102½	135	87½	144	159½
Reed Intl	420	35½	53	63½	16	37½	44½
(*432)	460	17½	35½	46½	38	60	66½
Reuters	550	40	65	86½	34½	60½	74½
(*553)	600	20	45	65½	64½	90	103
Rtl&Sun	460	34½	55½	73½	22½	49	60
(*467½)	500	17½	39	57	45	72½	82½
Safeway	280	15	30	36	14	22½	30½
(*282)	300	7	21	28	25½	34	42
Sainsbury	460	24½	45½	54	23	36	41½
(*461½)	500	10	28	37½	46½	58	64½
Shell	360	22½	39	43	14	22½	28
(*368½)	390	10	25½	31	31½	33	44½
Smith Bch	750	70½	106	122	18	45	54
(*797½)	800	42	79	96	39	67	77
Std Chtr	650	52	89½	115½	42½	82	98
(*654½)	700	30½	69	94	72	109½	124½
Thames W	1168	73	100	—	30½	54	—
(*1198½)	1223	44	72½	—	55½	80	—
Vodafone	900	68	118	150	44½	67½	101½
(*915½)	950	43	93½	127	70½	112½	127½
Woolwich	330	33½	43	50	8	15½	20½
(*352½)	360	16½	27	35	19	30½	35
Zeneca	2700	172	289	382½	106½	205	257½
(*2730)	2800	122½	240	—	155	254	—

Series		Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BTR	120	13½	19	20	10½	14	17
(*125)	130	9	14½	15½	16	19½	22
Blue Circ	300	28½	40	46	17	28½	31½
(*309)	330	15	26	33	34	45½	48½
Br Aero	500	59	89½	105½	28½	52½	57½
(*525½)	550	38	66½	83	54½	79	83½
Br Telcm	850	73	107	134½	43	69	67
(*878½)	900	47½	79	110½	67½	94½	112
Cadbury	900	72½	99½	137½	52½	81	100
(*910)	950	47	75½	114	79½	106	126
Carlton Cms	500	46	61	70	31½	45½	55
(*505½)	550	25½	39½	49½	60½	75	81½
Diageo	650	70	97	109½	42	67½	70½
(*671)	700	45½	72½	86½	68	92	98½
Gallaher	420	43	51½	64	20	31½	38
(*436½)	460	20½	32	45½	41½	53	59
GEC	500	68½	87½	104	27	42	47
(*538)	550	41½	63	80	50½	67	72
Hanson	420	50½	62	70½	17	36	36
(*450½)	460	28	41½	53½	35	45	47½
Imp Tob	600	55½	69½	81	19½	28½	37
(*630½)	650	28½	43	55	43	52	61½
Kingfshr	575	65½	—	—	26	—	—
(*605)	600	52	76	99	39½	63½	77½
Lasmo	110	18½	24½	27	5½	11½	12
(*119)	120	13½	20	22½	10	17	17
Ladbroke	200	29½	36½	43	10	19	24
(*218)	220	18½	27	34	19	29½	35
LucasVar	180	33	39	33½	6½	10½	13½
(*193½)	200	17	18½	24	16	19½	24
P&O	700	65½	83	108½	41	61½	75½
(*717½)	750	42	60½	79	67½	89	94½
Prudentl	800	37½	120	144	37	66½	79½
(*847)	850	64½	96	120½	59½	91½	100½
Rio Tinto	650	74	91	108½	22	48	54½
(*694½)	700	44½	63	84	42	72	79
R-Royce	220	30½	41½	45	8½	15	18
(*239½)	240	19½	31½	39½	17½	24½	27½

Series		Calls			Puts		
Tesco	153	14	—	—	—	7	—
(*158½)	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
Utd Bisc	238	13½	—	—	13½	—	—
(*243½)	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	27	—	—

Series		Calls Jan	May	Aug	Puts Jan	May	Aug
AlldLeo	550	45	65½	111½	34½	63	76
(*556)	600	22½	52½	95½	63	90	102½

Series		Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG	350	—	45	59½	1	16	19
(*365½)	[illegible]	[illegible]	27½	43	9½	27	31½
BSkyB	420	30	42½	56	1½	22½	33
(*448½)	460	5	30½	45	16½	40½	52½
Br Gas	30	2	—	—	1	4½	6
(*31½)	35	—	4	6	5	7½	9½
Centrica	120	6½	14	19½	1	6½	9
(*125)	130	—	9	14½	6	11½	14
Dixons	700	63	89½	122	6	42½	60
(*744½)	750	19	72½	99	21½	67	84½
EMI	350	24	—	56	6	27½	40
(*373)	390	—	35½	52½	20	43	56
Granada	950	45	126	139	6	68½	91
(*1001)	1000	—	93	116½	26½	94	117
GUS	600	3	63½	80	5	38½	40
(*603)	650	—	39	59	37½	65	65
Lloyds TSB	850	54½	103	129½	6	53	68½
(*889)	900	—	66½	92½	22½	76½	94
Lonrho	300	—	17	—	1	14	23½
(*326)	330	6	20½	33	11	29½	35½
Norwich	420	—	51	64½	4	24½	35½
(*425)	460	—	28	46	24½	45½	60
Orange	600	23	73½	100	14½	58	72½
(*627)	650	3	55½	77	47	85	100
Railtrck	1450	41	135	191½	23½	131½	127
(*1461)	1500	15	112	157	54	125½	152
Scot Pwr	600	37½	62	85½	3	35½	40½
(*631½)	650	11½	42	65	23½	49	84½
Tarmac	110	—	15½	17	—	3	13
(*112½)	120	—	9	12½	9	15	19
Tomkins	300	13	37½	37½	1	20	22½
(*306½)	330	3	22	28	14	30	32
Unilever	600	13	53	65½	5½	41	53½
(*614)	650	[illegible]	34½	60½	37½	66½	69

December 9 Total: 41323 Calls: 24343 Puts: 16974

FTSE INDEX (*5670)

Strike	Calls Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun
5500	222½	335½	444½	502½	663	43	145	225½	294	423
5550	184½	301½	415	471	—	52	164	245½	311½	—
5600	149½	270	385½	440	603	80	182	265½	339	460
5650	121	243	356	409	—	102	207	285½	347	—
5700	93½	213½	327	378½	540½	126	224	305	365½	497½
5750	72	184½	299½	347½	—	155	244½	327	394	—
5800	52½	151½	272½	318½	482	187	275	354	436	536½
5850	38	140	251	296	—	224½	302½	323	423	—

December 9 Total: 2013 Calls: 907 Puts: 1106 *Underlying security price

3i	2,866	Marks Spr	5,521
ASDA Gp	11,380	Misys	2,755
Abbey Ntl	3,578	Nat Grid	8,029
Allnce & Leic	908	Nat Power	4,517
Allied Dom	5,002	NatWst Bk	2,909
Allied Zurich	4,287	Norwich Un	2,473
Amvescap	1,480	Nycmd Amr	1,414
AB Foods	993	Orange	1,686
Bk of Scot	2,654	P & O	1,453
BAA	1,618	Pearson	1,660
Barclays	5,222	PowerGen 1998	2,233
Bass	2,447	Prudential	3,291
BG	7,672	Railtrack	7,152
Billiton	5,875	Reckitt Col	1,264
BOC	856	Reed Intl	4,567
Boots	1,416	Rentokil	3,855
BAe	6,444	Reuters	9,485
BA	6,200	Rio Tinto	2,141
Brit Am Tob	3,921	Rolls Royce	3,717
Brit Energy	2,786	Rtl & Sun	3,126
Br Land	2,553	Ryl Bk Sct	2,308
BP	17,918	Safeway	5,742
BSkyB	1,493	Sainsbury	3,884
BT	12,143	Schroders	373
BTR	10,473	Scot & New	3,565
CGU	6,523	Scot Power	8,850
COLT Telecom	1,439	Securicor	1,564
Cable Wire	4,987	Sema Gp	2,582
Cadbury	2,161	Sevn Trent	567
Carlton Cms	3,159	Shell Trans	18,870
Centrica	22,848	Siebe	17,956
Compass Gp	2,235	Smiths Ind	451
Diageo	5,397	SmKl Bch	22,421
EMI	3,307	Southern Elec	1,372
Gen Elec	5,861	Stagecoach	4,417
GKN	2,745	Std Chartd	2,902
Glaxo Well	6,192	Sun Life	307
Granada	4,083	TeleWest	1,252
GUS	2,201	Tesco	13,750
GRE	3,299	Thames W	524
ICI	2,322	Tomkins	2,007
HSBC	2,254	Unilever	5,144
Halifax	2,269	Utd News	2,791
Hays	3,298	Utd Utilities	852
Kingfisher	7,932	Vodafone	7,629
Ladbroke	11,281	WPP	2,495
Land Secs	2,256	Whitbread	3,613
Legal & Gn	5,391	Williams	1,546
Lloyds TSB	8,000	Woolwich	1,741
LucasVarity	1,554	Zeneca	21,944

	Dec 9 midday	Dec 8 close
ABP	47¾	47¼
AMP Inc	49⅛	48¾
AMR Corp	64¾	65
AT&T	68⅛	68¾
Abbott Labs	49⅝	48
Advanced Micro	31⅛	32
Aetna Life	81¾	81¼
Aflac	40⅛	40¾
Air Prod & Chem	39¼	35¾
Airtouch Comm	57⅜	57¾
Albertson's	59⅞	58¾
Alcan Aluminium	27⅛	27
Allied Signal	43⅛	43⅜
Alum Co of Am	74⅛	74¾
Amerada Hess	53⅝	53
Amer Express	98⅜	97
Amer Gen Corp	78¾	70¾
Amer Home Pr	53⅞	55⅛
Amer Intl	92¾	92¾
Amer Online	91⅞	90⅜
Amer Stores	34⅛	34⅛
Amer Standard	32⅜	33⅛
Ameritech	55⅞	56⅛
Amgen	83⅞	81⅛
Amoco	52	56⅝
Andrew Corp	17⅝	17⅝
Anheuser-Busch	63⅞	64
Apple Computer	32⅝	32⅞
Archer Daniels	17⅞	17⅞
Armco	4⅝	4⅝
Armstrong Wrld	68⅞	69⅝
Asarco	16¾	16⅝
Atl Richfield	66⅜	65⅝
Atmel Corp	16⅜	15⅝
Auto Data Pro	78⅛	78
Avery Dennison	45⅝	45⅝
Avon Products	39⅛	39⅞
Baker Hughes	17⅞	17⅝
Baltim Gas & El	31⅜	31⅝
Banc One	54⅝	54⅞
Bank of NY	39⅞	35⅞
BankBoston	42⅜	41⅜
Bankers Tr Crp	83	83⅝
Bausch & Lomb	55⅝	55⅛
Baxter Intl	63⅝	62⅝
Becton Dickson	42⅜	43
Bell Atlantic	56⅜	56
BellSouth	88⅛	89⅜
Best Foods	53⅞	54⅝
Black & Decker	54⅜	55
Block (H&R)	43⅝	43¾
Boeing	34⅞	34⅛
Boise Cascade	30⅛	30⅛
Boston Scien	28⅝	29⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	128⅜	128⅝
Browning Ferris	29⅞	29⅝
Brunswick	20⅝	20⅝
Burlington Ntrn	33⅞	33⅝
CBS Corp	30⅛	30⅝
CMS Energy Corp	48⅝	49⅛
CSX	41⅛	41⅛
Campbell Soup	55⅞	57
Carolina Pwr	47⅞	47⅞
Case Corp	21⅛	21⅜
Caterpillar	46⅜	48⅛
Central & SW	27⅞	27⅞
Champion Intl	40	39⅞
Chase Manhat	64⅛	64⅜
Chevron Corp	85⅛	82⅞
Chubb Corp	24⅞	24⅛
Cigna Corp	73⅝	73⅞
Cisco Sys	78⅝	77⅝
Citigroup	50⅛	50⅝
Clorox	111¼	113⅝
Coastal Corp	33⅞	35⅛
Coca Cola	66	68⅛
Coca Cola Ent	37⅛	38⅛
Colgate-Palm	82	84⅛
Columbia Energy	57	56⅛
Columbia/HCA	24⅜	25⅛
Compaq Comp	42	41⅛
Comp Ass Intl	43⅝	43⅛
Conagra	30⅝	32⅛
Conseco	27⅞	27⅛
Cons Edison	49⅝	49⅛
Cons Nat Gas	55⅛	57⅛
Cooper Inds	49⅛	49⅛
Corning Inc	43⅝	44⅛
Crown Cork	31⅝	31⅛

Eaton Corp 65⅝ 65⅝; Edison Intl 28⅛ 28⅝; Elect Data Sys 41⅝ 41⅛; Emerson Elec 63⅝ 63⅛; Engelhard Corp 18⅝ 19⅛; Enron Corp 55⅛ 54⅝; Entergy 31⅛ 31⅝; Ethyl Corp 6 6; Exxon 73⅝ 73⅝; FDX Holding 73⅛ 73⅛; FMC Corp 57⅛ 57⅜; FPL Group 64 64¼; Fifth Third Banc 69 68⅛; Ford Motor 54⅞ 54⅞; Fort James 36⅞ 37⅛; Fortune Brands 33⅛ 33⅜; Franklin Res 39⅛ 40⅛; GTE Corp 64⅛ 66; Gannett 64⅛ 64⅛; Gap Inc Del 48⅛ 51; Gateway 2000 54⅛ 52⅛; Gen Dynamics 55⅛ 56; Gen Electric 90⅛ 90⅜; Gen Mills 77⅛ 77⅛; Gen Motors 68⅛ 69⅛; Gen Reinsurance 222½ 223⅛; Genuine Parts 31⅛ 31⅛; Georgia Pac 56⅛ 57⅛; Gillette 47⅛ 41⅛; Glaxo Wellc ADR 65⅛ 65⅛; Goodrich (BF) 34⅛ 33⅛; Goodyear Tire 55⅛ 56⅛; Great Lakes 39⅛ 38⅛; Halliburton 31⅛ 31⅛; Harcourt General 49⅛ 49⅛; Heinz (HJ) 54⅛ 56⅛; Hercules 31 31⅛; Hershey Foods 65⅛ 66⅛; Hewlett Packard 65⅛ 63⅛; Hilton Hotels 19⅛ 20⅛; Home Depot 54⅛ 54⅛; Homestake Mng 9⅛ 9⅛; Honeywell 79⅛ 78⅛; Household Intl 36⅛ 35; Houston Inds 32⅛ 32⅛; Humana 20⅛ 21; Ikon Office 9⅛ 9⅛; Illinois Tool 58⅛ 59⅛; INCO 11⅛ 11⅛

Office Depot 32¼ 32⅝; Oracle 35⅝ 35⅞; Oryx Energy Co 13½ 13⅛; Owens Corning 37⅝ 38; PPG Industries 58⅛ 58⅝

Last post for state industry model

Finally, after years of shilly-shallying and uncertainty over the future of the Post Office under both the Tories and Labour, someone has had the courage to make up his mind. Step forward Peter Mandelson. The new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has made a firm, pragmatic decision. He has decided that the decision will be put off.

The possibility of bringing in private capital has not been ruled out, Mr Mandelson told Parliament this week. Indeed, selling at least some of the shares to the public is plainly the most prominent long-term option in Mr Mandelson's mind. It would closely parallel the original, pioneering Tory utility privatisation, the sale of the first half of British Telecom in 1984.

Some 14 years later this is deemed to be so revolutionary a step for the Post Office, a business that has averaged more than £500 million a year profits since the Tories first agonised over rural closures, that it cannot safely be contemplated. It would be too upsetting. So there are no plans for wholesale privatisation, says Mr Mandelson. Presumably, there are no plans for retail privatisation on the BT model either, even though this step-by-step formula has long since become a classic used by governments from Bonn to Tokyo.

Instead, the Government has opted for a compromise that has been hanging around for ages on the shelves of the DTI and the Post Office boardroom. It faithfully follows Labour's pre-election policies. By now, however, it is plainly no more than an interim measure.

Long ago, some thinkers on these matters saw a future for state industries as corporations that were run like private corporations, that were financially and managerially independent of Whitehall bureaucracy, but which were still owned by the nation. It was, if you like, one expression of the social democratic compromise between left and right in the early 1980s. Hardly anyone thinks this now.

Even in France, where this approach once ruled and where it often worked better than British nationalised industries, they have given up. Life is getting too complicated. Commissars of the single European market are gradually eroding national monopolies. In global industries, such as cars and defence equipment, state ownership hinders alliances.

The relationship tends to break down, too. Lack of market discipline on management matters less if the State's champion has a clear purpose and if protection from competition allows hands-off public owners to limit their risk.

As in the private sector, sympathetic long-term ownership lets a business take a long-term view of projects that groups vulnerable to takeover can only dream of. The



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

French nuclear power programme could hardly have happened in a competitive private sector. When joint ventures and markets are no longer under control, however, risk expands and the lack of accountability becomes a big liability. Credit Lyonnais and Air France are not attractive models.

Few doubt that the Post Office needs greater freedom from Treasury budget control if it is to invest £2.5 billion, forge new alliances, live with e-mail and cope with foreign competition. But the further it goes away from Postman Pat to global distribution, the riskier things become.

Look at the much-lauded Dutch TNT Post Group. It made a £700 million leap into world markets two years ago and was floated on the stock market this year. Its reception has been frosty, because new business is so much riskier than delivering letters around Amsterdam. In the year 2000, non-mail businesses are projected to contribute 56 per cent of turnover, but only 27 per cent of profits.

Back home, the Royal Mail has become by default the strike capital of British industry, a relic in a changed world. Only lack of market discipline allows this. Hence, perhaps, the long successful campaign against privatisation by the Communication Workers Union.

Unlike water or even gas and electricity, where competition has been promoted artificially, postal services are not a natural monopoly. Royal Mail is a monopoly maintained by law to allow a universal post to any address in the country at a single price and to maintain a chain of post offices that deliver to all a range of services still vital in the electronic age.

Legal monopoly and profit maximisation in the private sector do not sit together easily. As we have seen in other industries, it can work much better in practice than the seemingly more logical alternative of public ownership. The key to better performance is stout regulation of prices and service levels to force the business to be efficient. Performance regulation can never be enforced in the public sector. Mr Mandelson rejected conventional privatisation ostensibly on practical grounds. Even enabling legislation would take two years. In reality, he rejected it because it would be unpopular among voters and party members. That is a fair reason for a democratic politician.

Given the logic of moving the Post Office into the private sector, the better political response is to work on a "third way" that can attract public support. One option long available, for instance, is the statutory company, financed largely by share capital that issues a limited, index-linked dividend and in which, perhaps, employees could also own a class of share capital.

In this, or some other form, the Post Office could become fully independent. It could raise money on commercial terms and be subject to market disciplines and a simple regime of price limits.

If Mr Mandelson cannot find such a third way, he should surely start drafting an enabling Bill for privatisation now, so that it ready when needed in a few years' time.

Prescribing the miracle cure of pharmaceutical consolidation

Paul Durman on the mounting pressure for mergers faced by the international drugs industry



TOM McKILLOP IN NEW GROUP

TOM McKILLOP (pictured left) is having a good year. Already named as the successor to Sir David Barnes as Zeneca's chief executive, he is now set to become the head of the world's third largest pharmaceuticals group.

Dr McKillop is an open and affable Scot, well-liked by his rivals. He has spent his entire career with the group, having joined the corporate research laboratory of Imperial Chemical Industries in 1969.

He studied at Glasgow University, where he took a first- class degree and a PhD in chemistry. He has also studied at INSEAD in France.

Dr McKillop became the chief executive of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals in 1994. He is a director of Nycomed Amersham and of Lloyds TSB.

AstraZeneca will be chaired by Percy Barnevik, the former chairman of ASEA Brown Boveri, who is one of Europe's most respected industrialists.

Mr Barnevik is also the chairman of Investor, Astra's largest investor.

Jonathan Symonds, Zeneca's finance director, will take on the same role with the enlarged company, which will be based in London.

Ake Stavling, Astra's chief financial officer, will take responsibility for business development and integration.

The key responsibility for research and development will go to Astra's Claes Wilhelmsson.

The executive team is completed by Michael Pragnell, who runs Zeneca's agrochemicals business.

Another day, another drugs merger. The proposed formation of AstraZeneca is the third multi-billion dollar deal in the European pharmaceutical industry in the space of two weeks, following hard on the heels of the mergers of Rhône-Poulenc and Hoechst and of Sanofi and Synthelabo. A year dominated by talk of consolidation is ending in frenetic activity.

The new giants have pushed SmithKline Beecham out of the league table of the world's top ten drug companies. Roche of Switzerland, the one-time industry leader, is also falling behind.

Zeneca and Astra, like Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc, have learned the lessons from the botched combination of Britain's Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham. These deals, we are told, grow out of a common vision and culture. They are true mergers of equals that will not be endangered by the management disagreements that scuppered the £100 billion Glaxo SmithKline deal.

Sir David Barnes, who as chief executive of Zeneca was a zealous defender of the group's independence, said yesterday: "We have always put performance and quality first, and that's what we find in this merger." A deal had to meet "stringent standards" to produce benefits for shareholders, employees and patients — "and this [Astra] is the only company that passes that test".

Sir David, who will become deputy chairman of AstraZeneca, alongside Hakan Mogren, his opposite number at Astra, all but dismisses the suggestion that the deal is necessary to tackle the two companies' weaknesses.

Yet at about number 20 in the world pharmaceutical league, Zeneca alone cannot afford to match the research and development spending of the likes of Merck, Glaxo Wellcome and Novartis. Combined with Astra, the group will have drug sales of $11.5 billion (£6.9 billion) and pro forma pre-tax profits of $3.5 billion. It will become the world number three, only a whisker behind Merck and Glaxo Wellcome.

The R&D operation, which will be based in Sweden, will have a budget of close to $2 billion. This financial muscle is vital when it now costs an average of $500 million to take a new drug from the laboratory to the market.

More importantly still, both Zeneca and Astra are approaching the loss of patent protection on their biggest-selling pharmaceutical. One rival commented: "Whatever they say, that's what this deal is about."

Losec, the ulcer drug, will provide more than half Astra's $7 billion of sales this year but these will collapse after 2001 when the medicine loses its US patent.

Exactly the same issue — the approaching demise of its ulcer drug, Zantac — encouraged Glaxo into its acquisition of Wellcome in 1994.

But Ake Stavling, Astra's chief financial officer, who will become responsible for business development and integration at AstraZeneca, said too much was made of the Losec issue.

"The patents will expire over a long series of years," he said. "Perprazole, the next generation product, will help fill the gap. It's not as much an issue as some speculate."

Zeneca faces a similar though less serious problem with Zestril, its big-selling heart drug that loses its US patent in 2002.

Taking out $1.1 billion of annual costs by shedding 6,000 staff will help AstraZeneca ride out the troughs. No doubt coincidentally, the full benefit of these savings will be felt in 2002, the first full year in which Losec will be exposed to unbranded competition in the US.

The world's leading pharmaceutical companies are all highly profitable and their managements routinely disavow any need to consider mergers. The troubles that beset the deals agreed by Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham and, more recently, by American Home Products and Monsanto illustrate academic findings that many mergers fail largely because of cultural problems. And the consummated Swedish-American union of Pharmacia & Upjohn, briefly headquartered in the UK, has become almost a byword for the false promise of mergers.

Yet egged on by investment bankers and consultants, it seems unlikely that drug companies will be able to resist the pressure on them to merge. The industry remains highly fragmented, with even the biggest companies controlling less than 5 per cent of the world market. The cost of keeping up with new technologies in drug delivery, and government pressure to reduce healthcare costs, argues in favour of further consolidation.

Some experts believe it is only a matter of time before SmithKline Beecham succumbs to a deal. But after the bruising aftermath of the failed Glaxo Wellcome merger, Jan Leschly, SB's chief executive, would be wary of entering talks unless he could be confident of success. Much may rest on the success of Avandia, the diabetes drug, and possible blockbuster, that SB has just filed for regulatory approval.

American Home Products is obviously keen for a deal but, like SB, may be licking its wounds. But most of the leading US companies, most obviously Pfizer, are enjoying rapid growth from recently launched drugs.

Mike Standing, head of life sciences consulting at Cap Gemini, said the big question was how the German companies would respond. Schering, Merck, Bayer and BASF are all looking awkwardly medium-sized.

Roche is still digesting its purchase last year of Boehringer Mannheim but it too must be worried, particularly after problems with some of its newer products. The European Union has forced Roche to suspend sales of Tasmar for Parkinson's disease after it was blamed for causing a sudden and severe form of hepatitis that led to the death of three patients. This has cut estimates of Tasmar's peak sales by more than $200 million.

Mabthera, a cancer drug, has also been linked with patient deaths, prompting Roche to warn doctors only to give the drug "in a hospital environment where full resuscitation facilities are immediately available".

And in the US, Roche has still to reassure the Food and Drug Administration about breast cancer concerns on Xenical, the obesity drug recently launched in Europe.

A Roche spokesman said Xenical's launch had been highly successful and sales were exceeding expectations. The problems with Mabthera were to be expected on such a novel therapy.

Roche's ownership and complicated share structure could make a merger difficult, but the company is keen to participate in further consolidation. The spokesman said: "We have the product pipeline to have the necessary conditions for strong internal growth. But we never say never."

Weatherman forecasts strong growth

THE ICE BOX
THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Weather forecasters have never been regarded as being crucial to the everyday running of most businesses.

All this could change, however, if Piers Corbyn and his company, Weather Action, get their way. Mr Corbyn — the brother of Jeremy, the Labour MP for Islington — has developed a radically different way of weather forecasting to The Meteorological Office, and believes that there is a huge market for distributing the information to all kinds of businesses.

Mr Corbyn, 51, uses satellites to study weather patterns on the Sun, and compares them with historical data. According to Mr Corbyn, this can produce 85 per cent accurate weather forecasts up to 11 months in advance. Extreme weather can be predicted up to two years in advance.

Weather Action's smaller customers can get hold of this information via Reuters news terminals, premium-rate fax lines, and the Internet. Larger customers are sent forecasts via motorcycle couriers.

The most obvious customers for this kind of information are insurance and energy companies. Insurance companies want to be able to predict their cashflow in advance, and whether or not they should draw up policies. Energy companies need to predict how weather will affect demand.

Yet, Mr Corbyn believes there are many more uses for the information. The company is making predictions for British Gas on how many staff it needs in its call centres at any one time. If the weather is freezing, for example, customers are likely to experience problems with their boilers, and will contact the company.

Weather Action is also working with several high street retail chains: if Britain is going to have a good summer in 1999, for example, clothes retailers will want to stock up on shorts and T-shirts.

The next stage for Weather Action is to broadcast extended weather forecasts on television, and the company is thought to be interested in working with Channel 4.

☐ TDK, the Japanese company famous for manufacturing blank tapes, is poised to enter the European computer games market. The company has hired a former Sony executive to head the division, which is expected to concentrate on education, sport and music.

☐ TRADITIONAL broadcasters will remain the leading producers of television programmes in spite of the arrival of digital services, according to research published by the consultant Arthur Andersen. The study found that in spite of increased competition during the 1990s, traditional broadcasters still accounted for the majority of programme expenditure.

CHRIS AYRES

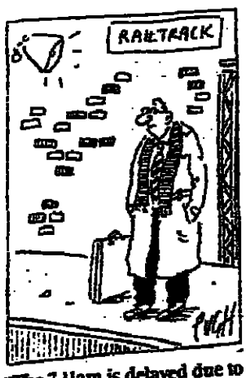
Cyberpunks

YESTERDAY I reported on the dispute between MoneyWorld, the financial services Website, and a similarly named site offering pornographic material. The pixels were barely off my computer screen before I heard of another even more audacious swoop on the Internet.

News of the £40 billion merger between Zeneca and Astra of Sweden broke on Tuesday night. Within hours the cybersquatters had got to work. These are the people who register Internet addresses and sell them on for a profit.

So by yesterday morning "astra-zeneca.com", "astra-zeneca.com" and "zenecaastra.com" had been registered by American entrepreneurs. Zeneca marched in to bag "zeneca-astra.com", but this is not going to help because the merged company is called AstraZeneca.

My informant in the world of computer copyright says the company might not have to pay for the use of its own name, however. It seems case law in most countries is moving towards finding in favour of those who originally owned the name, as opposed to those who opportunistically registered it after the event.



"The 7.11am is delayed due to too much money on the line"

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cheap shot

I HAVE been sent an internal newsletter from French Connection, the fashion firm that peddles cheap tat to yobs. In it, Stephen Marks, the founder and chief executive, enthuses over the company's gormless advertising campaign, in which the initials French Connection UK were shortened to FCUK. Such wit.

"I think the controversy is terrific," Marks tells staff. "Everybody complained about FCUK, and it did us nothing but good. If it's not controversial, who's going to be interested?"

Indeed, Stephen, and one of those that complained was the Advertising Standards Authority, was it not? "I don't think they liked it," he admits. "FCUK happens to be this company's trade mark. If people have a dirty mind, that isn't my problem."

So you're proud of having scrawled infantile *double entendres* on billboards across the country? "I take great objection to that. That's not our style at all."

By this stage Marks is becoming heated. He demands to know how I obtained an internal document. Sorry, Stephen, no chance. But it is just possible that one or two of your employees are less than proud of your contribution to the general yobbification of the country.

It isn't clever, Stephen, and it isn't funny. Go and wash your mouth out with soap.

ROLF BREUER and Frank Newman, respectively chairmen of Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust, held an hour-long video conference for staff at BT Alex Brown, or NatWest Securities as it was, to allay fears over the coming merger.

Lots of platitudes and only the odd mention of 5,500 redundancies, my mole tells me. I do wonder, however, if it was sensible, given the widespread perception that Deutsche is swallowing Bankers Trust, for Breuer to refer to the day the deal finally gets regulatory clearance as D-Day.

A FUNNY thing happened at the weekend. All of a sudden everyone knew that the Post Office was being reformed but not actually privatised. Don't ask me how.

But one small detail slipped everyone's attention. There is a regulator called the Post Office Users National Council. Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, has decided that the POUNC is to get a more central role in future.

Unfortunately, in the orgy of leaking, no one thought to tell the POUNC of these changes. A little discourteous of Mandelson, you might think, not to tell the regulator. Especially as the POUNC is staffed by DTI secondees.

Art attack

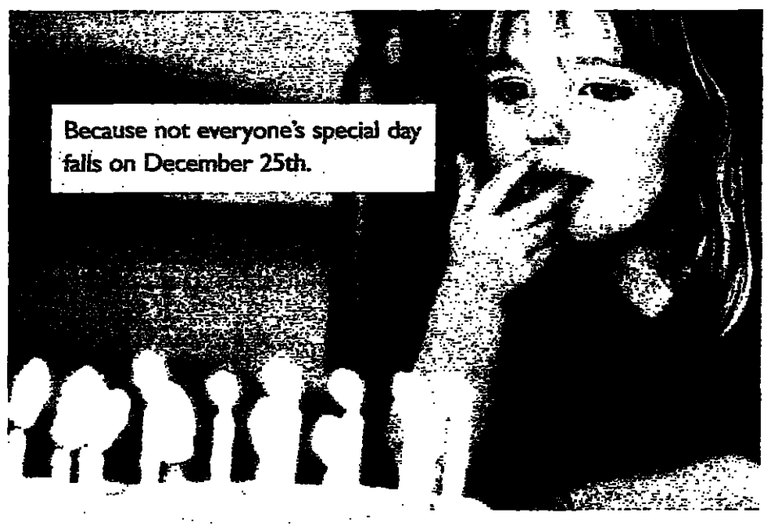
OLIVER PRESTON, cartoonist and a former contributor to this diary, is holding his first one-man show at the Fine Art Society in Bond Street in February. Preston toiled for ten years as a senior bond trader at Lehman Brothers before striking out on his own.

I ring him to catch up on old times. "I'm drawing like a dervish," he says. "I've got 100 cartoons to do, and I've done 50 so far." I had always assumed that artists did the work first and then had the exhibition, but apparently not. I hurriedly leave him to it, but reproduce one of his works.

MARTIN WALLER



"Finally Olaf acquired a Picasso from the blue period"



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ACCOUNTANCY

Beat danger and boost value

Mike Lilley on the importance and long-term benefits of risk control for UK firms with European interests

In a fortnight that has seen Boots going into Thailand, BTR and Siebe merging and M&S criticised for failing to diversify, it is clear that businesses in UK and Europe are under pressure from the same factors of global competition, supply overcapacity, the need to focus on core competencies and the need to pool resources in areas such as research and development.

Add to this list deregulation in utility and telecoms markets (with Italian telecoms particularly busy in the run-up to liberalisation next year) and we have a situation in which more companies than ever are, or are considering, acquiring or merging to maximise shareholder value.

As pressure for cross-border consolidation gets stronger, so does awareness of the challenges to an organisation's risk-management capabilities that the process unleashes, challenges that can deflect a business from its goals or ultimately threaten its long-term success and survival.

Although most organisations throughout Europe clearly recognise the importance of risk management, with 97 per cent of respondents to a new Ernst & Young survey saying that they have assessed their major risks, fewer than half are confident in their risk-control systems and only 10 per cent have complete confidence. And it is during the throes of merger integration that any shortcomings in risk management are likely to be exposed

At the most basic level, greater geographic spread can leave far-flung operations "out of sight and out of mind". More complex, however, and harder to tackle, are differences in culture, misalignment of strategies and lack of system compatibility that can drain the value that the consolidation was meant to create.

Business practices vary from country to country, as do the traditional roles of managers and understanding of corporate control and processes. The competencies of a risk manager or internal auditor, for instance, can differ between the UK and Germany; internal audit techniques and practices that work very successfully in the UK business may fall far short of giving a true picture of conditions in another country with a different business environment. Simple harmonisation may neglect differences rooted in financial reporting standards, legal and regulatory requirements, or views of corporate governance. The solution is not likely to be simply employing more internal auditors or more risk managers, which, in any case, is unlikely to win over a cost-conscious finance director in today's environment.

The traditional internal audit function (in many organisations, the focus of risk management capabilities) may be overstretched in trying to cope with an increased number of sites and the techniques and tools required for local conditions. Risk managers, too, could find themselves firefighting, forced to focus on problems as and when they flare up, or bogged down in trying to reconcile cultural anomalies.



Mike Lilley says there is lack of faith in risk management

If this is not enough for the board, other merger or acquisition aftershocks will be happening simultaneously — valuable senior managers leaving, conflicting processes being integrated and goodwill being lost because of the upheaval.

At such a time, risk managers can show their true value, but only by disavowing a fire-fighting role in favour of a helicopter view to see which fires and potential fires are the strategically important ones that threaten business survival and which can be left to burn out with little long-term damage.

By viewing the company in terms of value creation and as a range of processes to be integrated, management typically lays itself open to the issues that we have detailed above.

Instead, identifying the risks that integration creates, prioritising them and addressing the ones that are critical to a business's long-term success will make risk management cultural and not an add-on process. The aim would be that once consolidation is complete, the risk management culture continues to play a role underpinning and reinforcing the organisation's strategy and drive. Part of this will be the co-ordination of risk-management activities (insurance, health and safety, fraud, environmental, etc.), treating them as parts of a cohesive risk framework and creating a function able to act quickly to pursue the company's goals.

However, risk management is not only about problem resolution. It can affect the bottom line via reduced cost of capital and increased return on equity as actual and projected cash-flow is managed better. For the multinational of the future, the opportunity to use effective risk management as a differentiator from more sluggish rivals and as an efficient means of balancing risk with reward cannot be ignored. The question boards need to ask may not be how much risk can you avoid, but how much risk do you feel comfortable with?

The author is the partner in charge of Ernst & Young's European Centre for Business Risk and Internal Audit.

☐ *Copies of The Reality of Risk Management: views from across Europe are available from E&Y on 0171-931 1129.*

Global body needed to cure millennial fever

IF YOU were a finance director with a large European company, you would have every right to state that quite simply you are bewildered. Financial reporting rules, and in particular those that enable you to list on the stock exchange of your choice, have always been shifting sands at best. But suddenly they represent an ocean in extreme turmoil. And it is all because accounting is suffering from its own version of millennial fever.

In a nutshell, what is happening is this: international financial reporting rules will emerge in a package next week to go forward for approval by the world's stock exchanges. If that approval is given some time in the middle of next year, then theoretically companies around the world that comply will be able to list anywhere, but in particular they could achieve the goal of a listing in New York.

That all sounds fine. However, the closer that the deal nears completion the more panic-stricken are the responses from everyone else involved in the game. The ultimate authority in America, the Securities and Exchange Commission, is still reserving the right to refuse to accept international standards as good enough for American stock exchanges. The American accounting standards board, the FASB, wants to have one standard-setter worldwide to monitor and create future world financial reporting rules. It could be them. It could be someone else. It could be a genuinely international body. Meanwhile continental Europe, which traditionally has not had a financial reporting system remotely close to the Anglo-Saxon model that now dominates global business, is feeling that it should have more of a say. And it wants to create its own standard-setting body. Meanwhile, the international body that has been pioneering the harmonisation of financial reporting rules is now riven over whether it should become the future international standard-setting supremo or simply remain as a harmoniser. A strategy paper is imminent.

So the result is that at a time when the business world could have approached the millennium with one universally agreed set of global rules, it is faced with the possibility of fragmentation, confusion and a plethora of national accounting sages all arguing that unless they alone are heeded, the end of the world will be nigh. It is hardly a useful or dignified situation.

The most attractive solution is that put forward by Jim Leisenring, the FASB's vice-chairman, last week. He called for an international standard-setter to be set up. It could be the IASC, he suggested, or it could be the somewhat cumbersomely named G4+1, which involves the main Anglo-Saxon national accounting standards-setting bodies, or it could be a suitably internationalised FASB.

And according to Leisenring, who is blunt even by American regulatory standards, whoever it turns out to be is going to have a job on its hands. He argued that global standards needed to meet his definition of "high quality" and that currently none of the existing international standards met such criteria. He was even more scathing about the quality of financial reporting that the Big Five accounting firms allow through in companies in emerging nations and in Asia. The audit report may say that they comply with international accounting standards, but, as Leisenring put it: "You are depriving some village of an idiot if you believe that." The widespread practice of the global Big Five firms of thinking that they are somehow freeing themselves of responsibility by having only local partners of the firm sign dodgy accounts is but one example.



ROBERT BRUCE

Meanwhile no one knows whether or not the threat of confusion at a European level is real or not. Karel van Hulle, the influential head of the financial information and accounting unit at DGXV in the European Commission, is worried about the convergence of currencies and the European capital markets happening at a time when financial reporting rules are not yet harmonised. "There is a need to create a body which looks at accounting standards in a European context," Mr van Hulle said last week. And he added ominously: "Politics require due process."

We all know what people mean when they invoke "due process". They mean "we intend to sit here immovable until you accept our point of view and implement it". But process is also frequently cited by the SEC. None of this is going to help. It may be, as one seasoned observer puts it, that the European threat is meant to be only a threat — a Bismarck moored up a fiord just to remind the Americans that Europe has some firepower".

However, as John Hegarty, the secretary-general of FEE, the European accounting body, said last week: "We need convergence of accounting rules before the markets can converge. What the market needs is a single financial reporting language." And the only real answer to the profession's millennial fever is a swift passage to one global body to provide that.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Watchdog or party animals?

THE move towards some sort of order in international accounting standard-setting was shunted onwards with great gusto by Jim Leisenring, vice-chairman of the FASB, the American standard-setting body, last week. And, with news that the Big Five accounting firms are being investigated over alleged price-fixing in Italy and are under fire for accounts that they certified in the Far East, a powerful international body is certainly needed. One problem is always who is to pay for such an outfit. But to Leisenring, this is a no-brainer. "The cost of a 'superbody'," he said last week, "is less than the average Wall Street firm will spend on its Christmas party". Time for some goodwill, presumably.

Taxman captured

THIS is the time every newspaper column puts up ideas for suitable Christmas gifts. And this column is no exception. The ultimate accountant's Christmas present can be found on the wall at Agnew's, the Old Bond Street picture dealer. Amid a show of paintings by the up-and-coming Andrew Gadd is a vast oil, *The VAT Controller*. It is, apparently, a study of Gadd's own VAT inspector and shows him leaning over Dickensian ledgers as clerks scurry for more aged leather-bound books in the background. Far from being revenge by the painter, it was painted in homage. In real life, Gadd's VAT man is a jolly soul. A gallery spokesman said: "He was very genial at the opening party." The painting is a snip at £12,000, plus VAT, of course.

Sky-high target

LAST week's highly successful financial services conference run by the London Society of Chartered Accountants was graced by one of the great names of the business — David Norton, of Norton Partners. Norton has run his Bristol accountancy practice specialising in personal financial planning for a decade and was revealing some secrets of its success in what is still a relatively untapped market among chartered accountants. His advice included much emphasis on the need for targets. And he told the tale of the air traffic controller in one of the old Soviet republics. "His target was to try to make sure that as many planes landed as had taken off," he said.

ROBERT BRUCE

Propaganda:

"BA is more reliable than *easyJet*"

Fact:

Reliable easyJet beats big carriers

THE NO-FRILLS airline easyJet is regarded a more reliable service by business travellers than major carriers such as British Airways, British Midland and KLM according to a new survey by Company Barclaycard, Stanley Slaughter writes.

Although these three leading airlines were the most used by U.K. business travellers, their regular fliers gave them the lowest mark for reliability.

While a third of easyJet regulars said its reliability was excellent, the corresponding figures for British Midland, KLM and BA from their regulars were 29 per cent, 23 per cent and 22 per cent.

its customers rating it excellent for in-flight service (59 per cent) and for quality of food (59 per cent). The respective figures for BA in these categories were 17 per cent, five and five.

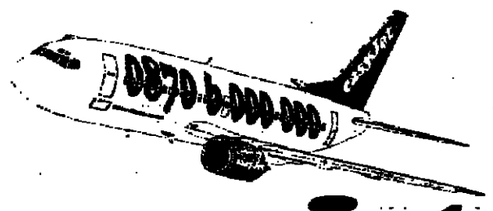
Heavy hitters such as BA and KLM were also given further cause to worry with a majority of business travellers saying smaller airlines give better service and quality.

In last year's survey, 53 per cent said big airlines gave better service, with only 40 per cent plumping for the small players. But this year the figures are exactly reversed.

The number of women worried about security rose from 77 per cent to for men the figure was cent to 68.

Despi ness t hol

The Daily Telegraph 18/11/98 Pg 35.



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Analysts' uneasiness knocks Sage shares despite rise in profit

BY CHRIS AYRES

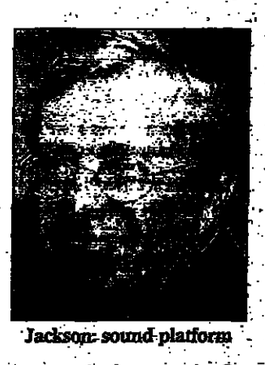
SHARES in Sage, the accounting software company, were yesterday marked down 3 per cent despite a sharp rise in full-year profits

The company, which sells advanced software packages to help small to medium-sized businesses to keep track of their accounts, saw its shares fall from £15.07½ to £14.60 as analysts were said to be re-evaluating the group's rating.

Shares in the company, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, have rocketed from just 97½p four years ago to a high of £17.82 in June. It is understood that some analysts are uneasy with the company's valuation, and plan to change their recommendations from "strong buy" to "buy".

Phill Davies, an analyst at Capel Cure Sharp, said: "The shares have had a strong run-up in anticipation of the results, which were very much in line with expectations. I think it is just people taking profits."

The company reported a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £47.6 million for the year to September 30, on sales up 26 per cent to £191 million. Sage, which in January paid £160 million for State of the Art (Sota), its US rival, said the acquisition had gone smoothly. Sage is worth £1.7 billion on the London Stock Exchange and employs more than 2,300 staff.



Jackson: sound platform

Sage said that Sota, now called Sage Software Inc, had "produced strong turnover and profits growth, exceeding our original expectations". Sage said it had merged its accounting products division in Dallas, Texas, into Sage Software Inc.

In France, the company said its customers had remained loyal in spite of the merger of Sage Saari and Sage Sybel.

Michael Jackson, Sage's chairman, said: "I believe that our established businesses in the UK, France, Germany and the US provide us with a sound platform from which to continue to grow. The new year has started strongly and the board is confident about prospects for the full year."

He added that much of the year had been spent preparing Sage's customers for the millennium, and in many cases, the euro. "All the group's current products are year 2000 compliant and, where relevant, euro compliant," he said.

Earnings per share were up almost a quarter to 28.85p. A dividend of 2.12p (1.93p) per share will be paid on March 1, bringing the total payment to 3.19p (2.9p).

Danka is thrown a lifeline

Danka, the troubled Anglo-American office equipment company, was yesterday thrown a lifeline when its banks approved a business plan and released the balance of a $75 million (£45 million) funding package to enable it to meet liquidity needs.

However, the company has yet to conclude a new supply agreement with Kodak, a deal that is considered essential to secure the company's long-term future. Danka said it hoped to announce details of an agreement at the time of its third-quarter results, due in February. The shares, which have plunged from 547½p a year ago, rose 9½p to 64p yesterday.

Metroline ahead

A slowdown in the economy should be good news for bus companies, Metroline, one of London's leading operators, said yesterday. Reporting profits up nearly two fifths to £5.9 million in the 12 months to October, a figure boosted by acquisitions, Declan O'Farrell, chief executive, said economic worries should reduce traffic congestion as well as relieve pressures in the labour market. Earnings per share were up 29 per cent to 21.01p. The final dividend is 4.9p giving a total of 7p for the year.

BCO shares drop

Shares in BCO Technologies, the silicon chip maker based in Belfast, collapsed yesterday as the company admitted that key customers had either walked away or had put orders on hold. Losses for the year are now likely to reach £4.5 million. The shares, which were floated on the Alternative Investment Market a year ago, and which hit 237½p during the summer, fell 40p yesterday to 107½p.

ICI in Quest sale

ICI continued with its disposal programme yesterday with the $55 million (£33 million) sale of its Natural Colours business, part of its Quest international flavourings and fragrances subsidiary. The business, which has sales of $30 million, is being bought by Christian Hansen, the Danish company.

WorldSpace in radio first

WORLDSPACE, the US group planning to beam several hundred digital radio channels to much of the world, yesterday unveiled the world's first digital satellite radio receivers (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The sets, manufactured by the likes of Hitachi, Matsushita and Sanyo, are expected to retail for $200 (£120).

The sets have data ports that can be used to provide multimedia programming. The first of three WorldSpace digital radio satellites has already been successfully launched.

Noah Samara, chairman of WorldSpace, said the group had also signed a three-year contract with CNN International to broadcast its 24-hour, pan-European audio service from the AfriStar satellite.

Channel Island papers merge

BY ROBERT LEA

TWO self-styled national newspapers pulled off a £65 million merger yesterday with the agreed takeover by the *Jersey Evening Post* of the *Guernsey Evening Press*.

The merger of the islands' only two daily papers — together they have a circulation of about 39,000 — will, according to Frank Walker, the Jersey group's chairman, "create a strong independent media group and one of the largest and most prestigious companies in the Channel Islands".

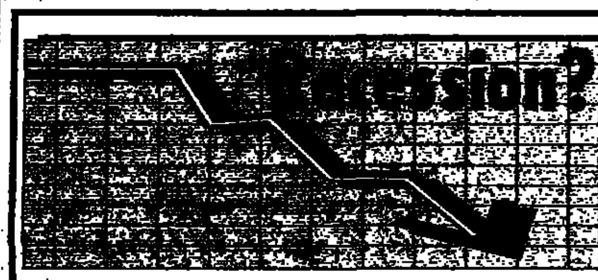
Guiton Group, the AIM-listed owner of the Jersey paper, is offering 309p in cash and shares for Guernsey Press, an unquoted company whose shares are traded on a matched-bargain basis via Collins Stewart, the broker.

The offer values Guernsey Press at about £27 million, putting the company on a multiple of 19 times historic earnings. UK regional newspapers were normally trade at p/e ratios of about ten.

The deal will see a £5 million windfall for descendants of Gervase Peek who founded the *Guernsey Evening Press* 101 years ago. A number of the family speak for up to 20 per cent of the company's shares. The merger will also produce a commercial printer with a monopoly in the islands, the two having been fierce rivals.

Equities extend gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.



A couple of tips to cut the travel budget

1. Ban Air Miles - it's bribery!

2. Fly easyJet

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
908	411½	BT	877	+27	2.8	25.8
872	153¼	COLT Telecom	872	+32		
863	467½	Cable Wireless	737	-27	1.9	25.9
716½	264½	Cable&Wire Comm	535	-2		52.8
1297½	252½	Energis	1232½	+135		
397½	95	Esat Telecom	124	...	3.0	16.7
830	239½	Orange	807	+12		
573	285½	Securicor	471	-3	0.5	45.4
209½	69½	Telewest	145	-3½		
960	298	Vodafone	913	+33	0.8	56.4

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
440	210	Air London†	271		3.7	12.4
357	179	All Nippon Air	212½	+1½		
518	330½	Arriva	372½	-6½	4.5	10.6
388	241½	Assoc Br Ports	301	+1½	3.9	14.7
372	150	Autologic	190½	-1	4.9	8.6
292½	186½	Avis Europe	237½	+4	1.7	20.8
731½	402½	BAA†	675	-13	2.6	18.6
721	303½	Br Airways†	360½	-6	5.5	8.1
140½	65½	Clarkson (H)	78½		6.4	10.9
204½	135½	Clydeport	200½	-3	3.6	11.0
232½	158½	Dart†	177½		2.7	15.0
83½	43	Eurotunnel Uts	75			
504½	221½	FirstGroup	370½	+4	2.3	20.7
140	55	Fisher (James)	76½		5.6	6.7
692	489	Forth Ports	580	+10	3.2	13.8
925	350	Frontline	400			14.3
815	510	Go-Ahead	713½	+8½	1.8	16.4
601½	229	Goode Durrant	274	-3½	6.4	7.9
565	301	Helphire Gp▼	542½		0.4	38.1
1135	700	Irish Cont	720		0.8	15.4
96½	58½	Jacobs	80		4.8	13.9
642½	405	Mersey Docks	509		3.7	18.3
367	170½	Metroline	355	-4½	2.5	
303	90½	NFC	119	+2½	7.4	12.4
1122	676	Natl Express	1110	+10	1.6	22.0
817½	472½	Ocean Group	715	-11	2.4	20.7
121½	62½	Ocean Wilson	85		6.5	5.4
1012	485	P & O Dfd†	712	-22	4.9	15.4
132	107½	P & O 5.5%	126½	-5½	5.4	
515	365	Prism Rail	365		6.8	10.8
1788	571½	Railtrack	1457	-64	2.0	19.5
130	78½	Salvesen (C)	97	-2	7.1	10.1
49	28	Seacon	28½	-½	5.5	20.9
298½	145	Seacontainer Shp	168½	+6½	6.0	5.3
311½	105½	Servisair	106½	-9	6.2	7.6
299½	153	Stagecoach	252½	+22½	1.2	20.6
628	297½	Tibbet & Britn	316½	-1	7.5	8.4
330½	193½	TDG	243½	+3	5.3	16.5
116½	69½	Ugland	70½	-½	8.8	4.7
72½	7½	Utd Carriers	15½		14.5	

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
987½	780	Anglian Water	847½	+4½	5.9	9.9
335	273	East Surrey	273½		5.7	8.5
1053½	782½	Hyder	782½	-5	6.5	7.4
128½	115½	Hyder Cm Prf	124		7.9	
775	680	Mid Kent Hldgs	680		5.9	8.0
1145	864½	Pennon	1094½	+15½	4.5	13.5
1175	685	Severn Trent	1038	-32	4.0	11.7
4025	3265	South Staffs	3712½		3.7	13.7
1230	811	Thames	1197	-11	4.2	12.2
978	658	Utd Utilities	870	-3	4.8	12.0
580	436½	Yorkshire	574½	+3½	4.3	11.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	20	Brit Biotech	32½	-2		
300	163	Cantab Pharms	202½	-1½		
458½	197½	Celltech	422½			
356½	195	Chiroscience	272½	-31		

BRITISH FUNDS

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
100.02	100.60	Treas 7¼% 1998	100.0800	..	7.25	7.65
102.63	100.29	Treas 9¾% 1999	100.2886	-0.0109	9.47	6.26
105.31	101.78	Exch 12¼% 1999	101.7787	-0.0095	12.04	5.89
104.98	101.99	Treas 10½% 1999	102.0162	-0.0069	10.29	5.71
109.17	98.64	Treas 6% 1999	100.1794	+0.0058	5.99	6.72
108.46	100.62	Conv 10¼% 1999	104.2781	+0.0046	9.83	5.58
105.02	102.86	Conv 9% 2000	104.1995	-0.0008	8.64	5.49
105.56	102.22	Treas 8% 2000	105.5507	+0.0289	7.58	5.35
103.84	101.81	Treas 8¼% 2000	103.3475	-0.0088	6.22	5.33
114.83	110.58	Treas 13% 2000	111.6338	+0.0147	11.65	5.23
110.32	107.11	Treas 10% 2001	110.1021	+0.0241	9.08	5.10
105.09	100.71	Treas 7% 2001	105.8894	+0.0744	6.61	4.80
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
107.38	101.42	Treas 7% 2002	107.3837	+0.0938	6.52	4.68
116.92	111.19	Treas 9¾% 2002	116.7086	+0.1052	8.35	4.79
113.72	106.58	Treas 8% 2003	113.7249	+0.1033	7.03	4.58
122.74	115.44	Treas 10% 2003	122.5663	+0.1948	8.16	4.64
114.41	110.60	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113.4148	+0.0191	10.14	5.16
98.98	90.17	Fund 3½% 1999-04	98.4200	+0.1200	3.56	3.84
124.73	118.53	Conv 9½% 2004	124.7310	+0.2280	7.62	4.83
111.75	101.84	Treas 6¾% 2004	111.7544	+0.3868	6.04	4.49
123.48	113.06	Treas 8½% 2005	123.4845	+0.4589	6.88	4.54
126.59	117.51	Conv 9½% 2005	126.5920	+0.3099	7.50	4.62
134.98	127.49	Treas 12½% 2003-05	134.5742	+0.1881	9.29	4.60
119.46	107.69	Treas 7½% 2006	119.4816	+0.5112	6.26	4.56
120.37	108.97	Treas 7¾% 2006	120.3736	+0.4984	6.44	4.59
111.02	104.96	Treas 8% 2002-06	111.8219	+0.1287	7.21	4.78
125.82	119.81	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	125.6378	+0.1052	9.35	4.81
127.59	114.59	Treas 8½% 2007	127.5901	+0.5828	6.66	4.56
120.32	105.98	Treas 7¼% 2007	120.3232	+0.5860	6.03	4.46
135.46	121.18	Treas 9% 2008	135.4754	+0.7324	6.64	4.50
130.00	113.66	Treas 8% 2009	129.9868	+0.7712	6.15	4.44
115.67	99.44	Treas 6¼% 2010	115.6652	+0.8139	5.40	4.53
141.85	124.09	Conv 9% 2011	141.7886	+0.7001	6.35	4.59
144.30	125.84	Treas 9% 2012	144.1307	+0.7556	6.24	4.60
109.36	93.28	Treas 5½% 2008-12	109.3616	+0.5982	5.03	4.31
130.58	112.61	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	130.3086	+0.7694	5.95	4.64
LONGS (over 15 years)						
136.43	116.50	Treas 8% 2013	135.6898	-0.0205	5.89	4.62
141.24	118.45	Treas 8% 2015	140.2971	-0.6384	5.70	4.57
158.14	127.39	Treas 8¾% 2017	151.8628	+0.6834	5.76	4.59
150.23	121.52	Tr 8% 2021	148.8224	+0.7953	5.38	4.52
UNDATED						
77.19	55.09	War Ln 3½%	75.5676	+0.9517	4.63	..
33.84	38.48	Treas 2½%	32.2601	+0.3580	4.78	
82.90	61.16	Consols 4%	82.9000	+0.9443	4.83	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
206.27	194.71	Treas IL 2½% 2001	206.2708	+0.0868	2.20	2.59
207.17	192.34	Treas IL 2½% 2003	207.1669	+0.1429	2.08	2.32
193.55	124.28	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	133.5528	+0.1286	2.81	2.21
230.54	206.54	Treas IL 2% 2006	230.5406	+0.4706	2.01	2.16
211.80	187.06	Treas IL 2½% 2009	211.7853	+0.5273	2.06	2.18
224.34	195.88	Treas IL 2½% 2011	224.3433	+0.5283	2.10	2.20
188.37	162.48	Treas IL 2½% 2013	188.3665	+0.6180	2.12	2.20
207.52	175.38	Treas IL 2½% 2016	207.5233	+0.7413	2.10	2.18
206.12	170.21	Treas IL 2½% 2020	206.1179	+0.8304	2.11	2.17
178.15	142.88	Treas IL 2½% 2024	178.1513	+0.8180	2.07	2.12
178.27	140.65	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	176.2702	+0.8552	2.08	2.08

Source FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures as report awaited; ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7966				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	141.84	151.15	+ 0.74	..
-do- NAV to Jun 19	135.00	135.00		
UK Equity Safeguard	113.16	121.03†	+ 2.19	2.02
-do- NAV to Jun 18	107.25	107.25		
US Eqy Safeguard	93.91	99.72†	- 0.02	
Cash	955.21	959.98†		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	404.47	430.30	- 0.99	1.80
UK Small Cos	78.83	84.31	+ 0.31	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	95.89	102.55	+ 2.59	1.69
Geared UK Index	#21.878	#23.096	- 0.15	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	86.54	89.40	- 0.86	6.66
Monthly Inc	43.90	46.96†	+ 0.63	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	351.68	371.02	- 4.12	0.17
American Strat	162.67	173.77	+ 2.25	
JG US Index	#27.248	#28.707	- 0.16	4.50
European Gen	409.68	433.50†	- 1.64	
European Strat	185.37	198.25†	- 1.67	
Japan Gen	108.43	114.70	- 1.72	
Asia Pacific	62.22	68.54†	+ 1.24	1.09
Pacific Strat	86.74	92.77	+ 2.09	
Greater China	156.91	167.82	- 2.86	
Latin America	62.71	67.07	- 0.35	
Int Growth	181.89	194.26	- 1.86	0.11
Balanced Eximel	176.67	183.07		2.18
Global Strategy	42.43	45.39	+ 1.02	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Tsts				
Balanced Acc	80.37	85.50	+ 0.43	1.72
Balanced Inc	72.20	76.81	+ 0.38	1.72
Bnt Excel	123.90	131.80†	+ 1.10	2.48
Brt Fndmtls Acc	162.30	172.70	- 0.50	4.03
Brt Fndmtls Inc	100.70	107.10	+ 0.30	4.03
Europe	542.80	577.40	+ 0.80	0.63
General Acc	911.90	970.10	+ 7.10	2.52
General Inc	729.80	776.40	+ 5.70	2.52
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	269.00	284.00	+ 1.40	4.90
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	106.80	112.70	+ 0.60	4.90
Global Opps	129.00	137.20†	+ 0.20	0.12
Higher Inc Acc #	1188.00	1264.00†	+16.00	4.49
Higher Inc Inc #	588.80	625.50†	+ 8.50	4.40
Japan Acc	34.64	36.85	+ 0.65	
Nth America	508.10	540.50†	- 3.60	
Pac Basin Acc	270.70	288.00†		0.64
UK Growth Acc	623.80	663.60†	+ 5.50	2.30
UK Growth Inc	386.40	411.10†	+ 3.40	2.30
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	63.06	67.09	+ 0.24	
Extra Inc Inc #	42.08	44.50	+ 0.08	5.40
High Yld Inc	118.30	125.90†	+ 0.60	2.69
Inc & Gth Inc	113.60	120.50†	+ 0.60	2.47
Pacific Grth Port	32.87	34.97	- 0.01	0.62
UK Income Inc	80.84	86.00	+ 0.51	2.20
UK Smaller Cos	39.78	42.32	- 1.10	2.12
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	159.30	169.10†	+ 1.00	5.26
High Inc Equity	235.30	252.70	- 0.50	3.84
Worldwide Bond	297.20	315.20†	+ 1.00	3.66
American Growth	613.60	655.10	- 5.90	0.21
Asian Pacific	203.50	217.60	+ 2.20	0.57
Assets & Earnings	354.40	379.00†	- 0.40	1.97
Euro Capital Acc	289.60	309.70	- 1.98	0.24
Extra Inc	40.97	43.59†	+ 0.04	8.43
General	321.50	342.00	- 0.40	2.90
Global Opps	77.46	82.40	- 0.43	0.36
Japan	81.69	87.32	+ 1.07	
Managed Inc	56.05	59.63†	+ 0.03	4.29
Mastertrust	195.80	209.40	- 0.10	1.39
US Emerging Cos	228.70	242.50	+ 0.80	
Ethical	85.38	90.83	- 0.21	1.99
International	156.00	166.80	- 1.00	
Dividend & Growth	88.03	93.65	- 0.14	3.20
Global Grth & Sec	83.02	88.62	+ 0.31	1.96
Latin America	47.43	50.73	- 0.95	1.34
Capital Reserve	168.60	168.70	+ 0.10	5.40
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	122.50	130.30	+ 1.00	1.53
Equity Income #	161.00	171.20	+ 0.50	3.55
Extra Income #	327.90	348.30	+ 1.50	4.23
Smaller Cos	76.15	81.01†	- 0.30	2.98
International	145.10	154.30†	- 0.50	0.85
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 666 666 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	364.38	382.71	- 4.45	
Asia Pacific	54.85	58.04	+ 0.12	0.25
Emg Mkts Inc	40.10	42.43	- 0.43	0.26
Ethical Inc	84.37	89.28†	- 0.13	1.40
Euro Grth Acc	136.38	143.13	+ 0.60	
Euro Spec Opps Acc	142.11	149.41	- 0.32	
Extra Inc Inc	215.57	228.13	+ 1.29	4.43
Extra Inc Acc	303.95	321.66	+ 1.81	4.43
FE Emg Econ	71.74	75.92	- 0.30	0.60
Fixed Int Inc #	28.70	30.12†	+ 0.04	8.44
Frontier Mkt Inc	55.54	58.61	- 0.34	0.37
Fund Of Inv Inc #	204.06	215.93	+ 0.40	8.64
Fund Of Inv Acc	453.58	479.97	+ 0.89	8.64
Gilt Inc Inc #	53.78	56.05†	+ 0.09	6.87
Global Bond Inc	43.56	45.47†	+ 0.01	4.64
Global Inc Inc	35.02	36.86	+ 0.15	3.45
Global Inc Acc	54.78	57.65	+ 0.22	3.45
High Inc Inc	155.72	164.79	+ 1.04	4.33
High Inc Acc	213.61	226.06	+ 1.42	4.33
Japan Inc	153.67	161.08	+ 2.82	
Latin Amer Inc	41.95	44.39	- 0.87	1.25
Master Inc Inc	61.51	65.08	+ 0.02	2.68
Master Grth Inc	59.09	62.52	+ 0.30	0.43
North Amer Inc	269.78	282.50	- 1.78	
North Amer Acc	270.10	282.84	- 1.78	
Prop Share Inc	75.00	79.36	- 0.31	2.23
Special Sit Inc	159.90	169.21†	+ 0.88	1.69
Special Sit Acc	182.86	193.51	+ 1.00	1.69
Tech Inc	988.82	1048.09†	+ 4.82	
Tech Acc	988.82	1048.09	+ 4.82	
UK Blue Chip Inc	120.74	127.42	+ 0.91	2.60
UK Blue Chip Acc	147.70	155.87	+ 1.11	2.60
UK Emg Co Inc	78.56	82.76	- 0.02	1.31
UK Grth Inc	75.68	80.08	+ 0.64	1.45
World Port Inc #	93.94	98.96†	+ 0.55	1.88
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2233.00	2364.00		
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 250 5866				
Resdl Property #	109.70	116.70		5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	105.71	112.16	- 0.14	2.36
Income Builder Inc	101.21	107.67†	+ 0.05	3.07
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Delmac Our Pen	153.70	159.60		
Fosnife Persl Pen	87.46	90.86		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	461.70	490.30	- 0.80	
Bond	134.60	141.70	- 0.50	5.85
Brit Smlr Cos	97.85	104.10	- 0.78	1.56
Europe	434.90	461.00†	- 0.45	
Euro Smlr Cos	125.50	131.50†	- 0.40	0.26
High Income #	71.51	76.07†	- 0.05	5.07
Income	416.90	443.50†	+ 3.00	3.64
Japan	300.40	317.80	+ 5.35	
Latin American	76.60	81.49	- 0.62	
Pacific	65.51	69.69†	- 0.14	1.01
UK Smlr Cos	58.42	62.15	- 0.47	1.81
Japanese Sm Cos	526.60	540.80	+ 6.35	
Mngd Fd	264.00	279.70	+ 0.70	2.72
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	457.80	484.20		0.75
Capital Gwth	170.90	180.90		2.10
Wwide Opps	253.90	263.50		0.76
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0161 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.10	101.10		6.63
Cash Acc	138.50	138.50		6.63
Income #	73.50	778.10	- 0.10	4.07
Income Builder #	82.51	87.87	- 0.02	4.36
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	115.50	122.90†	- 0.10	1.40
500	516.20	553.90	- 1.10	1.87
General	430.50	460.30	- 1.00	1.40
Property	270.90	290.60†		5.61
Trustee	300.80	321.40	- 0.70	1.46
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	194.30	207.70	- 0.40	1.33
FTSE 100	143.40	152.30†	- 0.48	1.43
Smaller Cos	52.12	55.71	- 0.03	2.95
Smaller Cos Acc	63.32	68.24	- 0.04	2.95
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	286.40	302.50†	- 2.80	0.09
American Growth	191.80	205.10	- 2.00	0.13
Japan	95.43	101.70	+ 1.50	
Japan Acc	97.56	102.90	+ 1.50	
Worldwide	234.70	248.40	- 1.00	0.74
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	53.18	55.14†	- 0.15	5.58
Mgd Grth & Inc #	50.24	53.23	- 0.36	4.98
Managed Growth	49.72	52.82	- 0.57	0.60
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Brokerline 0800 783 4567				
Income Funds				
Distributor #	126.70	127.40†	- 0.10	5.33
Equity Income #	171.40	182.80	- 0.40	4.10
Gilt & Fx Int	67.40	69.93†	+ 0.23	6.24
Int Fxd Inc	108.90	112.60	- 0.50	4.65
Int Fxd Int Acc	143.90	148.70	- 0.70	4.05
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	559.50	598.60	- 0.80	1.45
UK Growth Acc	566.30	605.80	- 0.80	1.45
Growth & Inc	565.50	605.10†	- 1.30	1.45
Growth & Inc Acc	1238	1324	- 3.00	1.45
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	280.50	296.50	- 1.40	0.40
Euro Growth Acc	308.90	326.60	- 1.50	0.40
Far Eastern Gwth	98.40	104.40†	- 0.40	0.64
Far East Gth Acc	166.00	179.80	- 0.50	0.64
Customer Service Centre 0800 828282				
b2 Sb Mk Gth	95.59	96.22†	- 0.57	1.27
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	236.50	249.80	- 1.50	
Amer Smlr Cos	149.30	158.40	- 0.70	
Eastern	141.20	151.60	- 1.10	0.80
Equity Income #	123.00	131.30†	- 0.80	3.80
European Growth	620.70	658.60	- 2.20	0.40
Europe Select	454.60	486.20†	- 0.50	0.50
German Growth	169.80	179.70	- 1.30	0.50
Global Bond	80.75	84.80	+ 0.32	4.80
Global Growth	215.60	229.50†	- 0.10	0.10
Japan Growth	129.70	137.50	+ 2.30	
Japan Sumrco	92.01	97.34	- 0.43	
Korea Trust	39.08	42.30	- 0.63	
Portfolio	184.50	196.20	- 2.90	1.50
-do- Accum	361.10	384.10	- 1.80	1.50
UK Growth	144.50	154.10	- 1.50	1.10
UK Smaller Cos	112.00	122.10	+ 1.10	0.50
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Int Gwth Port Int	109.50	116.30		
Special Opps Inc	43.74	46.53		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6026				
Balanced Growth	191.94	199.94	- 3.44	0.75
-do- Accum	228.81	238.34	- 4.10	0.75
Smaller Cos	164.82	171.69	- 6.14	0.89
-do- Accum	188.13	195.97	- 7.01	0.89
Higher Yield #	76.48	79.65	- 0.01	3.72
-do- Accum #	128.74	134.11	- 0.01	3.72
American Gth Inc	168.83	175.87	- 0.62	
European Growth	241.18	251.23	- 0.52	
-do- Accum	246.35	256.61	- 0.53	
Mngd Ptfolio Inc	63.85	66.61	- 0.06	1.42
-do- Accum	67.67	70.49	- 0.06	1.42
Int Spec Opps	211.74	220.56	- 0.10	
Pacific Gth	99.71	103.87	- 0.29	1.40
UK General #	128.68	134.04	- 0.29	2.58
-do- Accum #	145.05	151.09	- 0.33	2.58
Japan	39.87	41.53	+ 0.47	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	118.15	122.44†	- 0.29	6.71
BRIDGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.65	69.53	+ 0.03	5.55
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	233.00	245.30†	+ 0.60	1.58
UK Growth	285.90	300.90	- 0.70	1.45
UK Income	201.50	212.10	- 0.40	3.37

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	291.50	309.00	+ 1.80	1.09
-do- Income Dist	167.00	177.00†	+ 1.00	2.79
-do- Accum	575.10	609.60†	+ 3.20	2.79
Gilt & Fxd Int	48.77	51.25†	+ 0.28	1.40
Growth Units	350.70	374.50	+ 2.40	1.25
Bond	206.20	217.20	+ 0.80	4.50
Intl Growth	258.10	272.10	- 0.90	0.12
North American	386.20	410.10	- 3.30	
Far East	180.20	192.70	- 0.40	0.90
UK Smaller Cos	241.10	257.90	+ 1.00	1.31
European	132.30	140.60		0.14
Japanese Growth	29.16	30.88	- 0.20	..
High Income	291.20	311.20	+ 1.80	2.83
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 631 7433 Enq 0161 631 7432 Dlg 0161 831 7459				
American & Gen	340.00	360.00	- 3.20	
European Inc	145.60	154.60	- 0.60	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	98.21	104.48	+ 0.25	2.47
Growth	707.40	752.60	+ 7.30	1.52
Income & Growth #	576.10	612.90	+ 2.10	4.46
-do- Accum #	937.00	996.90	+ 3.60	4.46
Japan & Gen	51.24	54.15	+ 0.79	...
Halbrook Grwth	1621.00	1689.00	+ 6.00	1.10
-do- Accum	2051.00	2147.00	+ 9.00	1.10
Special Sits	162.80	173.20	+ 0.70	1.45
High Yield	1867.00	1925.00†	+ 8.00	3.68
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	120.85	128.41		2.10
American Portfolio	197.86	209.49		0.23
European Portfolio	206.91	220.18		0.24
High Income	59.38	62.79†		5.81
Japanese Portfolio	47.06	49.85†	...	
Pacific Portfolio	104.45	112.32	..	1.74
UK Equity	116.98	124.70		1.54
UK Equity & Bd	71.45	75.67		5.29
UK Smlr Cos	47.58	50.87		2.38
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1001.38	1016.92	-20.87	3.42
Inv Fd Acc	1071.15	1087.33	-22.67	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	176.20	176.90	+ 0.91	7.24
Fxd Int Sec Acc	202.91	203.73	+ 1.06	
CIN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 263 0800				
Equity Dist	1270.00	1292.00†		3.40
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	978.37	993.15	-25.56	3.50
Investment Acc	4872.70	4946.34	-129.26	
Fixed Int Inc	144.23	144.81	+ 0.43	7.18
Fixed Int Acc	309.66	310.90	+ 0.92	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
CF Intl Acc	113.36	119.12	+ 0.28	7.24
City Fin Fd	40.01	43.22†	..	
Acorn Ethical Tst	193.74	206.11†	..	0.50
City Fin Assets	87.52	91.90	..	2.26
City Fin Intl	89.64	95.36†	- 0.49	
Friars Hse Cap	379.59	403.82		2.27
Buckley Wrld Grth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	100.15	102.11†	+ 0.35	2.10
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	37.02	39.28	- 0.35	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	120.39	128.07	- 0.45	.
Dragon Growth	43.58	46.60	- 0.21	1.29
Equity High Inc #	122.30	129.31†	+ 0.03	4.09
-do- Accum #	190.22	201.29	+ 0.06	4.09
Extra Income Inc	30.78	32.59	+ 0.08	4.87
Extra Income Acc	37.55	39.75	+ 0.09	4.87
European Gwth	102.03	107.97	- 0.05	0.13
Evergreen	34.92	37.34	+ 0.06	0.01
General Equity	141.47	149.31	+ 1.11	2.16
Japan Growth	32.80	34.89	+ 0.50	
Pedigree Gwth	87.24	92.31	+ 0.06	1.80
Pref Sm Cos Inc	37.25	39.41†	- 0.03	2.27
-do- Accum	40.54	42.89	- 0.05	2.27
Retirement Inc #	34.26	36.45	+ 0.07	5.32
Special Sits	60.90	65.48	+ 0.62	2.61
UK & Overseas	76.91	81.38	- 0.13	0.42
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 836 600				
Balanced	86.33	89.92	+ 0.41	2.56
Capital	103.64	107.95	+ 0.57	1.40
High Income	60.37	62.88†	+ 0.17	6.00
Top 50	81.77	85.17	+ 0.19	1.35
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	234.83	244.64	+ 2.90	4.45
Long Gilt	60.94	63.43	+ 0.63	4.22
Monthly Inc Plus	63.80	66.47	+ 0.15	6.74
-do- Accum	81.69	85.10	+ 0.19	6.74
Preference Share	64.16	66.84	+ 0.18	5.83
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	179.08	186.56	+ 0.56	5.42
Managed Fund	94.53	98.48	+ 0.36	2.51
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	43.01	44.81	- 0.05	1.41
-do- Accum	51.86	54.03	- 0.07	1.41
UK & General	129.87	135.30	+ 1.25	2.06
-do- Accum	176.86	184.25	+ 1.70	2.06
UK Growth	261.61	272.54	+ 2.53	1.29
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	362.99	378.15	+ 0.83	
Far Eastern Grth	92.00	95.84	+ 0.58	0.35
Global Bond	77.56	80.80	+ 0.19	4.75
Japan Growth	86.00	89.59	+ 1.50	
North Amer Grth	371.27	386.78	- 3.21	
Oriental Growth	53.81	56.06	- 0.08	1.16
Worldwide Growth	93.13	97.02	+ 0.13	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.36	92.36	+ 0.02	6.27
Homemaker Fund	108.55	115.49	+ 0.54	1.99
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 600 3600				
Consistent UT	44.57	47.55	..	2.80
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	207.10	220.30†	+ 1.30	2.05
UK Eqty Inc	89.34	95.04	+ 0.11	3.29
European Growth	117.30	124.20	+ 0.80	
UK Spec Sits	220.70	234.80	- 0.30	1.36
For Co-op Pension see CIS Unit Trust				
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	102.20	108.40	+ 0.10	
Fellowship Tst	117.60	125.10	+ 0.19	1.07
Income #	356.70	379.40†	+ 2.58	3.67
-do- Accum #	1019.00	1083.00	+ 7.60	3.67
Smaller Cos	208.50	221.80	- 0.60	0.53
-do- Accum	261.40	278.00	- 1.00	0.53
Gilt Portfolio	122.80	130.60	+ 0.70	0.97
Mnthly Inc Port #	104.80	111.40	+ 0.60	3.50
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 478 1654				
Global Sm Cos	111.46	111.50		0.39
UK Small Cos	346.80	359.22		24.61
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	272.80	291.30†		2.56
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers:0171 475 7354 Admin/Val:0870 601 6117				
Amer Smlr Cos	225.89	240.30	- 0.45	
Bond Income	117.11	121.42	+ 0.24	5.95
European	294.02	312.78	- 0.53	
European Prv	137.84	146.63	- 0.92	0.75
European Special	201.92	214.80	- 0.37	
Gilt Yield	142.21	150.22	+ 0.73	6.24
Global Eqty Inc	150.67	159.99	+ 0.61	1.08
High Yield #	209.00	222.34†	+ 1.57	4.03
Japan	278.45	296.21†	- 2.86	
Japanese Special	133.81	142.35	- 0.10	
Money Market	107.62	107.62†	+ 0.01	5.74
North American	182.46	193.97	- 1.34	
Smaller Cos	127.82	135.97†	- 0.12	1.06
Tomorrows Co Ex	1239.60	1253.00	-13.00	0.12
UK Index Inc	444.44	446.67†	+ 2.84	2.55
Europe Bd	42.59	44.30		6.06
Exempt	934.06	965.08†	+ 7.94	1.67
Global Em Mkts	44.37	46.46		0.86
Little Dragons	59.53	62.33	- 0.53	
Oriental Income #	33.82	35.20	- 0.06	3.15
Preference	157.32	164.73†	- 0.09	6.96
Tiger	162.56	170.21	- 0.36	
UP Growth	905.95	949.68†	+ 8.47	0.77
UK Mid-Cap	439.19	459.88	- 4.51	1.25
UK Smlr Cos	111.59	116.84	+ 0.27	0.01
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0343 650 525				
European	92.04	97.53	+ 1.08	
Financial	76.42	81.20	- 0.36	1.23
UK Growth #	392.10	†	+ 2.70	1.91
UK Income #	240.90	†	+ 0.70	3.53
Latin American ‡	20.67	†	- 0.38	
Mgd Gwth Port	106.20	111.00	+ 0.20	0.63
Pacific ‡	57.53		- 0.17	
Pref High Inc ‡	78.00		- 0.01	7.04
Tokyo ‡	135.10		+ 1.80	
UK Smaller Cos ‡	254.90			1.37
Japan Sm Cos ‡	229.20		+ 2.10	
Nth Amer	688.60	728.20	- 5.10	
For Ely Place see Sarasin				
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7201				
Endurance Fd	253.60	269.80		1.29
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	146.40	154.10	- 0.50	1.23
Ethical Tst	55.94	58.88	- 0.43	1.39
Far Eastern	220.94	232.57	+ 2.25	1.10
High Income	180.20	189.68†	+ 0.67	3.82
UK Index Trckng	73.15	77.00	+ 0.91	2.13
Intl Growth	141.30	148.63	+ 0.05	1.57
North American	214.89	226.20	- 1.15	1.36
Pelican	192.85	203.00	+ 1.99	2.28
Smaller Cos	66.82	70.34†	- 0.02	2.35
Special Sits	89.18	93.87	- 0.41	3.08
Tst of Inv Tsts	236.75	249.21	- 0.33	1.75
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	156.83	165.34	- 0.27	
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.85	62.50	- 0.22	
High Income #	50.05	53.07	+ 0.02	8.71
Wkn S Gt Opps	60.37	64.05	- 0.02	
Zero Preference	52.36	55.55†	+ 0.06	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	134.60	143.10	+ 0.40	1.73
Charities Eth	345.50	367.50	+ 1.10	2.11
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	6.60
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond ‡	27.71		+ 0.05	4.60
Income Funds				
High Income ‡	31.52		+ 0.17	4.55
Income Plus #	106.00		+ 1.00	4.09
Moneybuilder Gwth #	43.11		+ 0.25	3.17
Equity Funds				
ASEAN ‡	14.43			
American ‡	664.80		+ 3.40	
Amer Spec Sits ‡	272.80		- 0.10	
European ‡	348.80		- 2.00	0.31
European Opps ‡	136.80		+ 0.20	
Global Prv ‡	42.52		- 0.03	0.20
UK Growth ‡	181.20		+ 0.90	1.21
Growth & Inc #	244.50		+ 1.60	3.29
Intl PEP ‡	70.52		+ 0.44	0.96
Japan ‡	64.01		+ 0.46	
Japan Spec Sits ‡	154.90		+ 2.10	
Japan ‡	547.20		+ 3.20	0.56
Managed Intl ‡	30.27		+ 0.10	6.24
Moneybuilder Inc ‡	85.41	85.41	+ 0.32	0.05
Moneybuilder Plus				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Recovery ‡	56.490		+0.210	3.09
South E Asia ‡	157.60	..	- 0.60	1.32
Special Sits ‡	861.30	...	+ 4.40	1.31
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	129.20	129.20	+ 0.02	6.60
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	163.90	171.70	+ 1.70	1.94
Fixed Int Inc #	117.20	116.40†	+ 0.30	6.45
Cap Prtcn	216.30	217.70	- 0.90	0.04
General Opps	181.20	182.70†	+ 2.20	3.18
Growth Inc	49.54	49.95†	+ 0.21	1.20
Private Portfolio	655.50	669.80	+12.90	1.55
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 358				
Euro Smlr Cos	230.20	244.80	- 1.80	
High Income	21.76	23.14†	+ 0.07	6.64
UK Smlr Cos	29.63	31.60	- 0.01	2.17
US Smaller Cos	530.30	563.90†	- 0.90	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	145.00	154.20	- 0.50	..
-do- Accum	145.60	154.20	- 0.50	..
Amer Smlr Cos	681.40	725.70	+ 0.20	...
-do- Accum	696.20	741.40	+ 0.30	...
Capital Tst	374.80	398.80	+ 0.40	1.43
-do- Accum	564.40	600.40	+ 0.60	1.43
Conti Smlr Cos	73.23	78.31	- 0.52	
-do- Accum	78.59	84.05	- 0.54	
Convertible	154.20	164.00	- 1.50	5.77
-do- Accum	365.80	389.10	- 3.70	5.77
Emerging Markets	37.69	40.27†	- 0.37	0.07
-do- Accum	38.25	40.87†	- 0.38	0.07
European	235.50	249.40	+ 0.40	..
-do- Accum	250.40	265.30	+ 0.50	
Extra Income	478.40	508.90	+ 0.50	3.86
-do- Accum	812.40	864.30	+ 0.80	3.86
Financial	269.90	287.10†	- 1.50	0.68
-do- Accum	290.20	308.70†	- 1.50	0.68
Gilt Trust	68.82	70.95	+ 0.21	5.50
-do- Accum	119.20	122.80	+ 0.30	5.50
Health Fund Inc	244.80	261.80†	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	244.80	261.80†	- 0.70	..
Income & Growth	270.50	287.60†	+ 2.60	3.93
-do- Accum	464.60	494.30†	+ 4.40	3.93
Intl Growth	516.80	549.90†	+ 2.70	.
-do- Accum	573.70	609.50†	+ 3.10	.
Japan & Gen	118.40	125.20	+ 1.30	.
-do- Accum	119.60	126.50	+ 1.50	
Monthly Inc #	245.20	260.80†	+ 3.90	4.32
-do- Accum #	264.50	281.40†	+ 4.20	4.32
Managed Port Inc	135.30	142.40	+ 0.50	1.52
-do- Accum	150.70	158.60	+ 0.60	1.52
Quarterly Income #	64.94	69.39†	+ 0.11	4.88
-do- Accum #	81.97	87.59†	+ 0.14	4.88
UK Growth	81.76	86.90†	+ 0.56	1.20
-do- Accum	91.64	97.49†	+ 0.62	1.20
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 0870 608 6300 Enq 0870 608 6300				
FP American	99.45	105.50	- 0.90	...
FP Am Smlr Cos	207.20	221.00	- 1.40	..
FP Asian Growth	151.10	161.10	- 0.20	..
FP Australian	428.50	457.00	- 7.80	
FP Equity Dist	602.70	642.80†	- 1.20	1.56
-do- Accum	1395.00	1488.00	- 2.00	1.56
FP Euro Gth	480.60	512.60	+ 0.10	
-do- Accum	526.50	561.60	+ 0.10	.
FP Intl Bond	62.66	66.30	+ 0.16	3.57
FP Intl Gth Dist	49.98	53.31†	- 0.14	
-do- Accum	73.61	78.73	- 0.21	
FP Pac Basin Acc	166.10	177.10	+ 0.30	
FP Income #	74.68	79.65†	+ 0.15	3.77
-do- Accum #	288.50	307.70	+ 0.70	3.77
FP Jap Smlr Cos	161.30	172.00	+ 0.10	
FP Monthly Dist #	90.45	96.49†	+ 0.24	4.39
FP Stlg Deposit	100.50	100.50		6.04
FP Tokyo	64.80	69.50	+ 0.89	
FP UK Focus	56.71	60.49	- 0.06	1.12
FP UK Growth	267.10	284.90	- 0.40	1.08
-do- Accum	357.20	394.30	- 1.00	1.08
FP UK Ind Tr Acc	93.02	99.22	- 0.33	1.95
Stewardship Dist	483.50	515.70†	- 0.10	1.74
-do- Accum	628.10	669.90	- 0.10	1.74
Stwrdsp Inc Dist #	80.02	85.35†	+ 0.20	4.48
-do- Accum #	121.80	129.90	+ 0.30	4.48
Stwrdsp Intern	177.90	189.70	- 0.50	0.12
-do- Accum	191.80	204.50	- 0.60	0.12
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	129.50	130.10†	- 0.40	2.36
Inst Ethical Ac #	136.40	137.00	- 0.40	2.36
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Open Cap Gth Acc	153.80	163.40	+ 0.50	..
Opn Cp Gth Ic #	142.20	151.20	+ 0.20	3.11
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	160.60	170.70	+ 0.20	3.11
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 100/7				
GANDA	384.30	404.50†	+ 3.20	1.51
Cash	49.47	50.21†	+ 0.01	5.47
Income Portfolio	94.17	99.13†	+ 0.22	2.80
GA Equity Gth	276.40	294.00	+ 2.30	1.27
GA European Gth	208.90	222.10	- 0.80	..
GA Japan Gth	76.96	81.24	+ 1.08	..
GA Nth Amer Gth	384.80	405.00	- 3.40	
GA Intl Gth	157.70	167.70	+ 0.40	0.12
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 505 0432				
American Smlr Cos	251.60	268.50	+ 1.50	0.12
European Gth	991.40	1057.00	- 5.00	0.16
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	67.20	71.18	+ 0.07	2.97
-do- Accum	80.67	85.45	+ 0.09	2.97
High Yield #	57.67	61.03†	+ 0.34	6.23
-do- Accum #	72.51	76.73	+ 0.42	6.26
Income Inc	227.00	242.80†	- 1.20	3.17
-do- Accum	276.70	296.00	- 1.30	3.17
Intl Growth	430.20	458.90	- 3.70	1.88
Intl Income	141.90	150.10†	- 0.70	2.13
Japan Growth	398.48	421.70	- 0.10	0.03
Orient Acc	120.30	128.50		
UK Blue Chip Inc	257.30	274.40	- 1.60	0.66
UK Blue Chip Acc	469.00	500.30	- 2.90	0.66
UK Sm Cos Dir Acc	86.62	92.86	+ 0.19	1.25
US Growth	281.10	297.20	- 1.40	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	74.34	79.21	+ 0.31	1.43
Practical Inv Inc #	144.51	154.56	- 0.32	3.11
-do- Accum #	370.19	395.93	- 0.82	3.11
UK Index	238.44	237.63	+ 1.63	2.78
UK Smaller Cos	224.29	239.86	- 0.15	1.22
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	27.47	28.47†	+ 0.05	6.71
High Income #	46.33	49.34†	+ 0.30	3.73
UK Growth & Inc #	210.87	224.46	+ 1.56	2.78
Global Bond	29.79	30.89	+ 0.04	4.60
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	31.66	33.86	- 0.45	..
Global Managed	177.19	187.70	- 0.07	0.80
Gold & Intl Res	56.51	59.37	- 0.06	..
Global Utilities	244.43	259.74	+ 1.93	1.14
Overseas Funds				
American	292.91	299.27	- 2.29	
European	216.21	229.34	+ 1.51	0.75
Euro Sel Opps	363.68	386.29	+ 2.86	
Amer Emerging	191.28	203.49†	- 0.50	
Hong Kong	116.33	124.30	- 0.91	2.95
Japan	144.70	152.98	+ 1.87	..
Pacific Growth	136.15	145.61	- 0.39	1.26
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	162.98	162.98†	+ 0.02	6.48
Managed Equity	316.50	316.50	+ 1.89	1.35
Long Term Bal	338.63	338.63	+ 1.45	2.33
Med Term Bal	289.96	289.96	+ 1.50	2.71
UK Equity	405.56	405.56†	+ 2.29	1.23
UK Emerging Cos	160.04	160.04†	- 0.10	2.92
American	502.53	502.53	- 3.99	0.33
Japan	90.22	90.22	+ 1.18	
European	556.33	556.33	+ 2.17	0.93
Index Linked Gilt	246.23	246.23†	+ 0.85	2.14
Fixed Interest	239.22	239.22†	+ 1.54	5.54
Amer Emergng	422.80	422.80	- 1.59	
Pacific	127.51	127.51†	+ 0.15	1.33
Emerging Mkts	91.77	91.77	- 0.59	1.26
Index Smll Japan	97.33	97.33	+ 1.70	0.49
-do- Pacific Rim	113.72	113.72	- 0.62	3.38
-do- Cont Europe	299.11	299.11	+ 0.31	1.36
Index Stkd USA	319.50	318.50	- 2.64	0.98
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Eqty	149.58	159.12	+ 0.96	
Med Term Bal	139.99	147.75	+ 0.76	
Long Term Bal	152.99	162.75	+ 0.70	..
UK Equity	169.68	201.79	+ 1.14	..
UK Emerging Cos	57.79	60.52	- 0.05	..
American	234.09	249.03	- 1.97	
Japan	43.21	45.96	+ 0.60	
European	232.35	247.17	+ 0.96	
Fixed Interest	125.99	133.92	+ 0.89	
Index Linked Gilt	110.51	117.56	+ 0.41	
Deposit	100.04	106.42	- 0.01	
Broker Unit Trusts				
EWH Intl	173.45	182.58	+ 0.70	0.47
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc ‡	827.08		- 5.33	0.60
-do- Accum ‡	928.82		- 5.71	0.60
European Gth Inc ‡	127.48		- 0.53	0.55
Amalgam Inc	136.34	136.22	+ 0.04	
N Amer Gwth Inc ‡	830.25		-12.05	
Far East Gth Inc ‡	253.74		+ 2.04	0.36
-do- Accum ‡	254.73		+ 2.15	0.36
UK Gwth Inc ‡	223.76		- 0.13	1.83
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 625 5800				
European	873.20	939.30†	- 4.80	
Gilt & Fixed	150.50	159.90	+ 1.00	4.14
Growth Equity	513.36	554.40†	- 0.70	0.94
Income Trust	201.13	214.60	- 2.80	2.78
International	249.13	266.70	- 0.90	
Japan Trust	87.51	93.34	- 1.39	
Nth American	529.11	563.20	- 4.00	
Pacific	338.50	361.60	- 0.10	0.57
Guardian	746.30	797.30	- 1.40	1.63
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	109.10	113.25†	- 0.27	2.94
Global High Inc	36.57	38.21†	- 0.04	3.41
Stlg Bond Pflo	125.75	130.53	- 0.57	4.51
Cash Mgd Pflo	137.86	148.37†	- 0.03	4.32
European Pflo	192.31	204.12	- 0.62	1.23
World Mkts Pflo	97.11	103.96	+ 1.38	0.95
UK Sc Inc Pflo	179.85	191.29†	+ 1.82	3.25
-do- Accum	293.15	301.07	+ 2.86	3.25
UK Opps	442.90	468.80†	- 0.90	3.18
-do- Accum	553.72	588.20	- 1.20	3.18
Sc Vec High Inc	151.26	152.52	+ 4.55	5.17
UK Emerg Cos	224.10	248.90†	- 1.29	4.79
Inst UK Sm Co	308.06	329.40	- 2.60	5.20
Gilt Prm Tst	152.33	161.63†	+ 0.35	1.48
-do- Accum	167.71	171.57	+ 0.37	1.48
Inc Share Tst	119.71	127.32†	- 0.01	7.23
HK & China Tst	72.43	77.07	- 0.44	1.64
Blue Chip PEPs	325.48	346.07	- 2.92	1.42
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611119				
Balanced Inc	70.36	74.64	+ 0.23	2.39
Balanced Acc	78.66	83.41	- 0.45	2.39
Growth	43.14	45.75	+ 0.33	1.41
Growth Acc	45.97	48.69	+ 0.35	1.41
Income	33.34	45.25†	+ 0.24	3.44
Income Acc	45.90	48.57	+ 0.28	3.44
Accumulation Tst	38.36	43.57	+ 0.32	2.47
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Perf Acc	49.47	52.49	- 0.33	2.30
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 404040 Dealing: 0645 404040				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	453.31	482.39	- 2.74	0.86
Best of British	92.53	97.81	- 0.53	0.84
UK Smaller Cos	178.25	191.62	- 0.06	0.41
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	391.30	417.36†	- 3.02	2.62
-do- Accum #	1195.62	1252.03	- 9.13	2.62
High Income	418.65	445.71†	+ 1.07	2.76
Extra Income #	359.51	382.44†	- 0.15	4.08
Pref & Bond	60.57	63.58†	- 0.08	6.56
International				
Ethical	162.22	173.49	- 0.63	1.90
Intercontinental	385.23	407.12	- 0.44	0.19
Global Bond	56.52	59.35†	- 0.14	5.05
Intl Port Tst	129.25	137.31†	- 0.32	..
Global Tech	369.73	391.97†	- 1.50	...
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	156.43	167.23	+ 0.50	0.19
European	1011.26	1069.99†	+ 2.76	
European Income #	141.48	149.35	- 0.46	2.45
Euro Smlr Cos	265.64	274.19†	- 2.06	0.63
European Value	119.75	127.70	+ 1.29	...
-do- Accum	129.40	137.99	+ 1.29	..
Japan Trust	117.94	124.33	+ 1.86	..
Japan Smlr Cos	134.66	119.43	+ 0.69	0.84
Pacific Smlr Cos	151.20	161.09	+ 0.20	
North American	486.63	515.35	- 5.30	.
American Smaller	229.94	244.44	- 1.85	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 520 520				
British	170.97	179.02†	+ 1.31	1.46
Capital	255.97	268.03	+ 1.08	1.14
Dollar	810.97	849.18†	- 8.79	...
Enterprise Gth	548.39	574.11	+ 1.38	0.61
European	445.76	466.75	- 0.20	...
Far East	174.08	182.28	+ 0.37	1.44
Financial	1465.51	1534.56	-13.52	1.37
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	30.59	32.23†	+ 0.07	4.78
High Yield	144.81	150.79	+ 0.65	3.86
Income & Growth	217.24	227.47†	+ 1.77	3.53
International	381.72	399.71	+ 0.61	0.71
Japanese General	141.15	147.81	+ 1.54	
Japan Tech	61.74	64.65	+ 0.42	
Nat Resources	51.94	54.38	- 1.10	1.18
Portfolio	106.17	111.17	+ 0.33	2.34
Special Sits	265.97	278.50	+ 2.04	1.22
UK Emerging Cos	107.71	112.78	- 0.31	1.96
US Smaller Cos	163.06	170.74	- 0.02	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	837.10	869.40	+ 3.70	4.13
UK Growth	932.40	982.30	+ 8.10	1.26
High Income #	148.20	156.20†	+ 0.30	5.44
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	950.00	1004	-10.00	..
European Gwth	249.90	263.90	+ 0.50	.
Japan Gwth	201.70	213.60	+ 2.78	.
Japan Smlr Cos	18.03	20.19	+ 0.07	
Asian	33.69	35.96	- 0.04	0.77
Hong Kong Gwth	134.50	143.20	- 0.60	2.53
Global Bond	22.43	23.82	+ 0.05	4.36
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	224.50	225.60	+ 1.60	2.57
Trade Index	119.60	123.50		3.13
THE FOOTSIE FUND	92.97	93.44†	+ 0.75	1.80
Index Funds-International				
American Index	478.00	480.40	- 3.90	0.29
Eurotrack 100	388.20	389.70	+ 0.70	0.57
Japan Index	52.09	52.35	+ 0.83	0.25
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	40.17	41.95	- 0.07	2.47
General Funds				
Managed Dist	106.09	108.70†	+ 0.32	1.28
Managed	110.40	115.30†	+ 0.26	1.26
Export Cnsld Fnd	149.10	155.70	+ 1.20	0.91
UK Growth	85.83	89.64†	+ 0.69	1.41
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	110.50	115.40	+ 0.20	4.49
Gilt & Fixed Int #	30.88	31.91	+ 0.05	6.65
UK Inc & Grth	61.97	64.72†	+ 0.51	2.37
UK Income #	472.90	493.00†	+ 1.30	3.36
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	91.73	94.89	- 0.63	...
Amer Smlr Cos	198.20	198.20	- 0.50	..
-do- Accum	192.20	200.40	- 0.40	..
Europe Gth	411.50	429.80	- 2.10	...
-do- Accum	426.30	445.20	- 2.30	...
Euro Smaller Cos	72.67	75.82	- 0.73	...
French Growth	146.00	151.40	- 0.40	0.20
-do- Accum	156.60	163.60	- 0.40	0.20
H Kong & China	77.69	80.86	- 0.14	2.98
Intl Growth	83.44	86.74†	+ 0.30	0.62
-do- Accum	85.18	88.56†	+ 0.31	0.62
Japan Gth	20.34	21.18	+ 0.27	...
-do- Accum	20.34	21.18	+ 0.27	
Japan Smaller Cos	21.76	22.71	+ 0.24	
Glob Emg Mkts	57.48	60.03	- 1.02	0.07
-do- Accum	58.18	60.74	- 1.04	0.07
SE Asia	180.10	188.10	+ 0.99	1.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	54.29	55.99†	+ 0.18	5.15
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 0870 606 6457 Dealing 0870 606 6457				
UK Income #	150.58	159.36†	- 0.31	2.28
UK Growth	161.37	169.44†	- 0.40	0.80
European Gwth	146.88	154.22†	- 0.41	..
Slater Growth	223.35	236.35	- 0.29	1.49
New Japan	67.18	71.24†	+ 0.27	..
Global Growth	124.12	130.33†	- 0.59	..
Monthly Inc #	98.25	102.99†	+ 0.19	7.38
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
Income #	280.95	309.52	- 0.36	3.75
UK Growth	112.84	120.03	- 0.18	1.42
Ecology	119.75	127.39	+ 0.81	0.57
European	291.99	310.12	+ 0.57	0.20
Far Eastern	283.70	301.70	+ 5.60	
UK Special Sits	67.47	71.96	+ 0.78	0.31
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.09	60.89†	- 0.11	..
High Income #	65.18	69.51	+ 0.32	4.24
Financial Opps	71.06	75.79†	+ 0.81	0.53
Growth & Income #	53.84	57.42†	+ 0.15	2.26
Global Opps	58.24	58.77	+ 0.10	0.78
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8600				
Bridge Income #	397.62	423.00†	+ 3.37	4.70
Ext Growth	129.13	137.37		0.66
Inc & Growth	96.51	102.67	- 0.82	3.03

Yet another charity trying to get as much as it can out of people.

Realising Potential

John Grooms works in partnership with disabled people to improve their quality of life, to maximise their freedom of choice, to respect their dignity at all times *and to achieve a level of independence appropriate to their needs and desires.*

For information on how you can make the *difference call 0800 13 88 111.*

John Grooms
Working with Disabled People
Reg. Charity No. 212463

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	104.08	110.72	+ 0.14	1.76
Ever Spec Sit Inc	54.47	57.95†	- 0.09	2.52
Ever Spec Sit Acc	58.74	62.49†	- 0.10	2.52
Pension Growth	50.20	53.40	+ 0.05	1.65
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Dealing: 0870 6066408				
UK Cap	554.40	588.30	+ 2.98	1.44
UK Inc/Gth #	601.60	638.30†	+ 4.65	3.35
UK Income #	410.60	434.20	+ 1.70	4.52
UK Income Acc #	433.20	459.60	+ 1.80	4.52
UK Sm Cos	291.70	311.90		2.28
Euro Gwth	243.88	257.80	+ 1.20	0.36
N Amer Gwth	173.38	183.30	- 1.29	
Pacific Growth	6.04	6.40	+ 0.02	0.27
Emg Mkt Gwth	52.04	55.21	- 0.81	
Japan Growth	47.19	49.84	- 0.61	..
Dealing: 0870 6016019				
Gwth Port Inc	83.18	88.25	+ 0.15	
Gwth Port Acc	84.97	90.14	+ 0.15	
Inc Port Inc	78.39	83.15†	- 0.06	3.28
Inc Port Acc	92.42	98.05†	- 0.06	3.09
Wwide Port	66.58	70.64	+ 0.39	...
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 449412 Dealing: 01222 683012				
Equity Dist (i)	773.10	773.10	+ 5.50	1.94
-do- Accum (i)	1662.00	1662.00	+11.00	1.94
Equity Income #	125.00	125.00	+ 0.40	4.02
UK Tactical Allocn (i)	86.52	86.52†	- 0.50	5.46
European (i)	219.20	219.20		0.14
Far Eastern (i)	160.20	160.20	+ 0.40	0.74
Fixed Interest (i)	83.47	83.47†	+ 0.29	6.44
Gilt (i)	108.47	123.40†	+ 0.45	4.45
Global Growth (i)	92.52	92.52†	+ 0.13	0.39
Intl Bond (i)	51.72	51.72	+ 0.11	4.68
Japanese (i)	52.86	52.86†	+ 0.73	..
North American (i)	341.60	341.60	- 2.80	
Pacific Growth (i)	73.12	73.12	- 0.82	1.35
Pacific Index (i)	29.18	29.18	- 0.16	2.98
UK Index (i)	102.30	102.30†	- 0.70	2.51
UK Recovery (i)	140.30	140.30†	- 0.60	1.59
UK Smaller Cos (i)	172.40	172.40	- 0.40	1.57
US Index (i)	138.30	138.39†	- 1.20	0.56
European Index (i)	142.00	142.80	- 0.10	1.04
Japan Index (i)	26.56	26.56	+ 0.44	0.08
Worldwide (i)	118.60	118.60†	+ 0.20	1.25
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 823				
Growth	73.49	78.59†	+ 0.54	2.19
Income	84.09	89.93	+ 0.26	3.81
Far East	28.76	30.75	+ 0.23	5.54
North American	187.10	199.00	- 1.80	
Global	103.50	110.60	- 0.10	0.35
European	153.60	163.60		0.29
Japan	65.74	70.31	+ 0.82	
Intl Currency Bd	59.33	62.89	- 0.04	4.39
SE Asia	55.12	58.95	+ 0.11	1.27
UK Cap Growth	132.80	142.10	+ 1.30	1.39
Recovery Trust	87.19	93.25†	- 1.54	3.71
Managed	80.69	85.85	+ 0.15	1.28
Cash	52.47	52.47	- 0.01	6.24
LLOYDS TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
0845 3002244				
American	508.28	529.40	- 4.32	
-do- Accum	551.04	583.11	- 4.75	
Brit Growth	171.27	181.23	+ 1.35	1.35
-do- Accum	218.94	231.68	+ 1.73	1.35
European	196.09	207.50	- 0.76	0.57
-do- Accum	209.99	222.22	- 0.30	0.57
Extra Income #	275.92	291.98	- 1.21	3.84
-do- Accum #	545.20	576.93	- 2.40	3.84
FTSE 100 Inc	174.13	185.24	- 0.31	1.71
FTSE 100 Acc	187.78	199.75	- 0.33	1.71
Smaller Cos	78.86	83.45	- 2.56	1.87
-do- Accum	91.64	96.98	- 3.43	1.87
General	482.59	510.68	+ 3.25	1.69
-do- Accum	1081.97	1123.78	+ 7.15	1.69
Pension Income	59.28	61.75	+ 0.14	4.55
-do- Accum	165.93	172.84	+ 0.40	4.55
High Income #	97.24	96.56	+ 0.37	3.68
-do- Accum #	179.40	141.36	+ 0.54	3.66
High Interest Inc	117.05	121.13	+ 0.34	6.16
High Interest Acc	140.51	145.81	+ 0.41	6.16
Hi Reserve Inc #	131.01	133.38	+ 0.56	4.85
Hi Reserve Acc #	152.39	160.07	+ 0.66	4.85
Income #	504.99	534.38	- 4.62	3.51
-do- Accum #	1248.53	1321.84	-10.01	3.51
Japan Growth	77.77	78.63	+ 1.03	
-do- Accum	74.17	78.50	+ 1.03	
Pacific	245.67	259.91	- 0.64	1.30
-do- Accum	258.14	273.16	- 0.98	1.30
International	800.52	879.85	- 1.84	0.62
-do- Accum	1098.52	1162.46	- 2.44	0.62
Intl Income	68.14	72.10	+ 0.19	3.76
-do- Accum	97.51	103.19	+ 0.28	3.76
Millennium Acc	132.36	140.81		1.78
Nat Resources	109.46	115.83	- 1.99	0.31
-do- Accum	120.76	127.78	- 2.20	0.31
Spcld Opps	175.21	185.40	- 1.19	1.39
-do- Accum	235.11	248.80	- 1.61	1.39
Environmental Inv	118.52	125.42	- 0.12	1.02
-do- Accum	135.35	143.23	- 0.14	1.02
Safety First Acc	121.15	127.53	- 0.22	1.28
-do- until 19/3/99 ‡	119.15			
Selector	96.15	101.74†	+ 0.31	1.82
-do- Accum	114.80	121.48†	+ 0.38	1.82
Selector Income	82.94	87.77†	- 0.28	3.50
-do- Accum	112.79	119.36†	+ 0.53	3.50
UK Eq Gth	222.21	236.42	- 1.07	2.28
UK Eq Inc #	174.91	186.08	+ 1.46	3.32
UK Growth Inc	88.66	93.82	+ 0.63	1.37
-do- Accum	94.30	99.85	+ 0.66	1.37
UK Income Inc #	71.53	75.75	+ 0.31	3.85
-do- Accum #	83.94	88.83	+ 0.37	3.85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Woolw Gilt Inc	81.87	86.42	+ 0.16	6.60
-do- Accum	83.14	87.58	+ 0.17	6.60
Other Unit Trusts within Lloyds TSB group				
Lloyds Bk Unit Tst Mgrs Ltd				
Helpdesk 01634 834530 Dealing 01634 834512				
Balanced	543.10	577.80†	+ 3.70	1.81
-do- Accum	1342.00	1428.00	+ 9.00	1.81
Conti Euro Gth	122.40	128.80†	- 0.60	0.75
-do- Accum	132.70	138.70	- 0.70	0.75
Extra Inc #	374.30	398.20†	+ 1.80	3.76
Extra Inc Acc #	1112.00	1183.00	+ 5.00	3.75
Europe Gth	216.60	228.30	- 0.70	...
-do- Accum	227.40	239.40	- 0.80	..
Growth Port	840.20	893.90	+ 3.80	1.41
-do- Accum	892.50	949.50	+ 3.80	1.41
Income Inc #	742.60	789.40	+ 6.10	3.31
Income Acc #	2242.00	2386.00	+18.00	3.31
Income Port	721.30	767.40	- 0.20	3.88
-do- Accum	872.20	928.00	- 0.30	3.88
Master Trust	82.86	88.15	+ 0.34	1.47
-do- Accum	98.77	105.10	+ 0.40	1.47
N American Gen	403.40	428.20	- 5.30	...
-do- Accum	466.90	495.80	- 6.10	...
Nthn Sm Co Rec	201.40	214.30	+ 0.40	..
-do- Accum	205.50	218.70	+ 0.40	
Pacific Basin	148.10	157.60	- 1.50	0.88
-do- Accum	159.80	169.80	- 1.70	0.88
Small Cos Rec	469.80	494.60†	+15.30	2.66
-do- Accum	672.70	708.20	+21.90	2.66
UK Growth	141.70	150.80	+ 1.00	1.62
-do- Accum	182.60	194.30	+ 1.20	1.62
Worldwide Gth	464.20	493.90†	+ 1.10	0.80
-do- Accum	689.10	733.10	+ 1.60	0.80
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	143.30	153.70	- 0.70	1.66
Income	94.23	101.18	- 0.40	2.98
International	89.41	95.93	- 0.50	0.17
Tst of Inv Trusts	83.36	89.46	- 0.48	0.87
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	718.80	758.00	- 6.80	0.42
-do- Accum	904.30	953.70	- 8.60	0.42
Amer Recovery	773.30	816.80†	- 2.40	0.34
-do- Accum	897.30	947.70†	- 2.80	0.34
Amer Smllr Cos	176.47	186.28	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	180.20	190.20	- 0.70	...
Australasian	190.50	201.80	- 2.40	2.26
-do- Accum	250.20	264.70	- 3.10	2.25
Blue Chip #	92.49	92.87	+ 0.25	3.39
-do- Accum #	268.60	280.14	+ 0.81	3.39
British Opps	61.08	64.50	+ 0.10	3.10
-do- Accum	225.30	238.10	+ 0.40	3.10
Capital	1068.50	1129.50	+ 1.20	2.49
-do- Accum	1335.50	1412.30	+ 1.50	2.49
Charifund #	975.20	985.00†	- 0.38	5.12
-do- Accum #	5653.50	5710.10†	- 1.80	5.12
Commodity	291.80	308.40	- 2.60	1.58
-do- Accum	436.50	461.70	- 3.90	1.58
Corporate Bond	31.19	31.20	+ 0.15	5.60
Dividend #	52.30	55.36†	+ 0.20	4.47
-do- Accum #	255.30	270.30†	+ 1.80	4.47
European	948.90	1003.50	- 0.90	0.92
-do- Accum	1228.60	1299.30	- 0.60	0.92
Euro Dividend #	116.30	123.00	- 0.20	3.01
-do- Accum #	155.10	165.20	- 0.20	3.01
Euro Smlr Cos	73.70	77.90†	- 0.60	0.02
-do- Accum	74.00	78.19†	- 0.70	0.02
Extra Income #	543.99	575.20	+ 0.30	5.24
-do- Accum #	2000.20	2115.40	+ 1.20	5.24
Fund of Inv Tsts	768.20	812.40†	- 1.00	1.29
-do- Accum	1520.90	1608.40†	- 2.00	1.29
Gilt Income	76.15	76.27†	+ 0.43	4.30
-do- Accum	259.33	259.73†	+ 1.47	4.30
Gold	33.29	35.19	- 0.70	0.71
-do- Accum	40.30	42.60	- 0.90	0.71
High Interest	24.79	24.79†	..	6.77
Income #	40.20	42.50	+ 0.10	4.41
-do- Accum #	184.70	195.30	+ 0.50	4.41
Intl Growth	99.50	105.20	- 0.60	0.46
-do- Accum	178.20	188.40	- 1.50	0.46
International Inc #	136.50	144.30	- 0.60	4.05
-do- Accum #	235.80	248.50	- 1.00	4.05
Japan	24.80	26.18†	+ 0.50	...
-do- Accum	26.60	28.08†	+ 0.50	...
Japan Smlr Cos	88.50	94.30†	+ 0.60	...
-do- Accum	90.10	95.00†	+ 0.60	...
Managed Gwth @	30.50	30.73		
Managed Income #	36.10	36.37†	+ 0.10	4.22
Pension Ex	1322.80	1355.90	+ 4.50	2.08
Recovery	83.70	88.60		3.16
-do- Accum	98.70	102.30		3.16
Smaller Cos	63.40	67.00		2.27
-do- Accum	137.50	145.50		2.27
Sth East Asia	230.20	243.40	+ 0.50	1.89
-do- Accum	318.70	338.40	+ 0.80	1.89
UK Equity #	80.60	85.20	+ 0.80	4.13
-do- Accum #	233.70	246.80	+ 1.80	4.13
UK Growth	1460.00	1553.50†	+10.30	1.65
-do- Accum	1684.20	1781.20†	+11.70	1.65
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 610 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	164.45	174.84	+ 0.32	0.47
Intl Bond	66.55	69.90†	+ 0.10	2.85
Intl Equity Growth	109.60	118.30†	+ 0.34	0.47
N Amer Growth	207.64	220.69	+ 1.80	0.18
Special Sits Growth	36.63	38.96	+ 0.01	1.59
UK Growth	605.27	643.56	+ 0.45	2.01
-do- Accum	870.45	925.82	+ 0.67	2.01
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1474.50	1496.30†	..	2.88
Income #	1250.30	1272.20	..	4.
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	199.70	204.90		3
MAREX INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7878				
Growth Fd Acc	85.03	90.97	- 1.58	1.81
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	111.70	115.10†	+ 0.50	5.44
Investment Pflo	226.50	233.50	+ 0.80	1.88
-do- Accum	278.10	287.70	+ 0.80	1.88
UK Select Pflo	211.40	218.00†	+ 1.10	1.40
-do- Accum	265.60	273.80†	+ 1.30	1.40
UK 100 Cos	167.70	167.70	+ 1.20	1.53
-do- Accum	177.50	177.50	+ 1.40	1.53
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 390 000				
Managed Tst	89.51	95.22†		3.12
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4840				
Intl Income	103.50	109.90†	+ 0.70	3.41
European	157.90	167.60	+ 0.20	0.50
Income #	104.50	110.90†	+ 0.60	3.20
Nth American	105.50	112.08	- 0.70	...
Far East	126.00	133.80	+ 1.10	...
Japan	54.19	57.51	+ 0.64	
Emerging Mkts	59.23	63.35	- 0.52	0.37
Intl Growth	141.30	150.00	+ 0.30	0.02
UK Growth	120.02	128.00†	+ 0.87	1.87
UK Smlr Co	52.95	56.21†	+ 0.04	2.52
Asia Pacific	23.68	25.33	+ 0.06	0.53
Glob Gwth PEP	75.23	79.86	+ 0.28	0.61
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	114.70	122.10	+ 0.50	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 590 8000				
Income	633.96	673.47	+ 4.80	2.58
Global Inc	98.98	105.30	+ 0.24	2.28
Brd Leaders Inc	463.30	492.87	- 3.31	1.82
Intl Leaders	37.43	39.41	- 0.45	0.36
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	451.48	475.90†	- 1.98	
-do- Accum	487.60	507.80†	- 2.10	...
American Opps	138.10	145.00†	+ 0.30	
-do- Accum	140.80	149.50†	+ 0.40	
Bal Port	115.30	122.20	- 0.20	2.43
-do- Accum	148.30	157.10	- 0.20	2.43
British Blue Chip	129.60	137.40	- 0.19	2.40
-do- Accum	174.80	185.50	- 0.10	2.40
Cash	100.80	100.80		6.73
-do- Accum	165.50	165.50	+ 0.10	6.73
Emerging Mkts	88.24	94.80	- 0.09	0.32
-do- Accum	89.48	95.53	- 0.09	0.32
European Growth	503.30	532.30	- 2.20	0.13
-do- Accum	549.90	581.70	- 2.30	0.13
General	698.20	739.90	- 1.20	2.11
-do- Accum	1477.00	1569.60	- 2.80	2.11
Global Bond	141.90	149.20	+ 0.70	3.65
-do- Accum	205.60	216.00	+ 0.50	3.65
Gold & General	117.60	126.70	- 3.20	..
-do- Accum	121.90	131.10	- 3.40	
Govt Securities	110.90	114.30†	+ 0.40	4.08
-do- Accum	351.20	356.30†	+ 0.90	4.08
High Yield Bd	117.80	120.70†	+ 0.50	4.79
-do- Accum	149.20	143.70†	- 0.60	4.79
Income	237.80	253.00†	- 0.40	3.75
-do- Accum	423.40	450.40†	+ 0.80	3.75
Inc Portfolio #	138.00	146.20	+ 0.30	4.82
-do- Accum #	163.90	173.60	+ 0.30	4.82
Intl Opps	591.00	630.40†	+ 3.00	0.84
-do- Accum	809.40	863.40†	+ 4.20	0.84
Japan	137.40	145.70	+ 1.70	...
-do- Accum	141.60	149.60	+ 1.70	..
New Europe	319.10	339.10	+ 0.10	0.55
-do- Accum	336.70	357.80	+ 0.20	0.55
Pacific	62.17	66.31	+ 0.51	0.86
-do- Accum	67.64	72.15	+ 0.56	0.86
Recovery	450.80	480.90†	+ 0.80	2.90
-do- Accum	617.30	658.50†	+ 0.80	2.90
UK Smaller Cos	57.40	61.23	+ 0.17	1.85
-do- Accum	68.07	72.61	+ 0.20	1.85
Managed Gth	137.30	143.20†	- 0.10	1.78
Managed Inc	145.38	150.60†	+ 0.20	3.67
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq 0345 456 123 Dlg 0345 456 123 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm				
Balanced	95.30	101.60	+ 0.56	2.14
-do- Accum	96.27	102.90	+ 0.70	2.14
British Tst	145.50	152.40	+ 1.30	1.39
-do- Accum	180.70	189.20	+ 1.60	1.39
Corp Bond Inc	114.40	118.50†	+ 0.30	5.62
-do- Accum	131.20	136.00†	+ 0.40	5.62
Extra High Inc #	88.48	92.65	+ 0.19	6.45
-do- Accum #	211.40	221.40	+ 0.50	6.45

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FTSE 100 Acc	103.10	108.00	+ 0.00	1.80
FTSE 100 Dist	92.22	97.61	+ 0.82	1.59
Gilt & Fxd Int	65.50	68.16†	+ 0.22	5.46
-do- Accum	233.10	242.60†	+ 0.80	5.46
High Yield #	300.50	314.70†	+ 0.58	5.31
-do- Accum #	922.70	966.20†	+ 1.30	5.31
Household Names	136.20	136.00	+ 0.80	1.30
Income #	425.60	445.70	+ 1.80	3.69
-do- Accum #	1085	1118	+ 5.00	3.58
Money Market UT	49.50	49.58†	+ 0.01	6.18
-do- Accum	52.58	52.66†	+ 0.02	6.18
Monthly Income	121.20	126.98†	+ 0.48	4.05
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	198.40	200.40	+ 1.90	1.24
European Growth	224.80	238.80	+ 0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed	133.10	141.10	+ 0.40	4.16
Income	145.40	154.70	+ 2.10	3.47
Japan Growth	31.52	33.42	+ 0.20	..
Managed	197.30	214.40	+ 2.50	2.17
Money Market	108.30	115.00		5.82
North American	167.40	177.90	- 1.50	
Midland FRANCS Unit Trust				
British	170.70	181.60	+ 1.70	1.51
European Growth	210.70	223.90	+ 0.10	
Gilt & Fixed Int	123.60	120.50	+ 0.40	4.17
Income	142.30	151.40	+ 0.80	3.47
Japan Growth	31.60	33.49	+ 0.10	
Managed	102.60	109.20	+ 0.50	2.17
Money Market	100.00	106.00		5.82
North American	148.80	158.00	- 1.30	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	168.10	179.90	+ 1.70	1.66
European Growth	204.40	216.70	+ 0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	107.20	113.70	+ 0.30	4.25
Income	138.10	146.90	+ 0.60	3.43
Japan Growth	32.24	34.17	+ 0.20	
Managed	105.70	112.40	+ 0.50	2.03
Money Market	89.14	94.40	+ 0.02	5.64
North American	169.70	179.70	- 1.50	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 545 7474 Enquiries: 0171 545 7171				
American Gwth	736.40	772.50	- 4.29	..
European Gth Inc	754.70	798.00	+ 2.20	..
-do- Accum	762.90	810.90†	+ 2.20	
UK Equity Inc	270.90	287.40	+ 1.60	4.08
Do Accum	459.10	494.70	+ 2.40	4.08
UK Growth Inc	164.90	176.80	+ 0.70	2.37
-do- Accum	173.60	185.30	+ 0.80	2.37
UK Intl Trckr Inc	212.10	223.00	+ 2.00	2.46
-do- Accum	332.40	353.50	+ 2.80	2.46
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	458.70	483.80	- 3.60	0.71
Asian Tracker	122.70	131.50		
Mngd Ptflo Inc	232.50	245.90†	+ 0.90	1.49
Mngd Ptflo Acc	264.60	279.10†	+ 1.10	1.49
Europe	265.10	300.20	- 0.90	..
High Income	19.86	21.06	+ 0.12	10.00
Japan Growth	75.24	80.03	+ 0.86	..
UK Blue Chip Inc	153.80	162.70	+ 1.10	1.44
All-Wide Eq Acc	97.75	103.80	+ 0.80	..
Wld Opps Gth Acc	87.95	93.02†	+ 0.25	1.00
Wld Opps Gth Inc	87.95	93.02†	+ 0.25	1.00
MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER				
Enquiries: 0800 0901 982				
The Morgan Stanley Dean Witter No-Load Funds				
Cont Equity (I) ‡	#6.226	...	-0.003	1.71
Cont Equity (A) ‡	#6.186	...	-0.004	1.02
Gib Equity (I) ‡	#9.398	...	-0.005	1.31
Gib Equity (A) ‡	#9.359	...	-0.006	0.45
UK Gnl & Inc (I) ‡	#9.018	...	+0.076	2.66
UK Gnl & Inc (A) ‡	#8.986	...	+0.076	1.87
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
American Growth	78.81	79.83		
Equity Income #	128.50	131.99†	...	3.64
European ‡	137.40			
Smaller Cos	80.51	85.28†		1.23
Wwide Eqty	95.02	98.06		
Global Bond	45.06	45.55†		4.09
UK Growth	136.10	139.40		1.04
Pacific Growth	66.60	68.66		1.45
Japan Growth ‡	92.66			
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	50.49		†	... 1.84
Portfolio Inc A ‡	49.68		†	... 1.84
Gilt Acc A ‡	57.69		†	... 5.35
Gilt Inc A ‡	55.16		†	... 5.35
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 610				
Avon Equity	200.30	213.09	+ 1.35	2.05
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	177.70	187.10†	- 1.40	...
European Dist	237.30	249.80†	+ 0.10	...
Far East Dist	119.20	125.50	+ 0.90	...
Global Care Dist	111.80	118.80†	+ 0.30	0.61
Ocean Dist	1220.40	1284.60	+ 1.20	...
-do- Accum	1591.00	1674.70	+ 1.50	...
UK Dist	560.30	589.70†	+ 4.90	1.56
-do- Accum	1179.30	1241.40	+10.40	1.56
UK Extra Inc Dist	122.30	128.60	+ 0.70	1.60
Wwide Dist	137.30	144.50	+ 0.40	0.84
Wwide Inc Dist	106.21	111.80	+ 0.41	2.30
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 0123				
Europe Inc	125.84	132.61	- 0.25	0.66
Fund of Funds Inc	81.04	85.59	- 0.41	1.46
North America Inc ‡				
UK Equity Grth Inc	87.94	92.91†	+ 0.41	1.25
-do- Accum	98.71	104.18†	+ 0.46	1.25
UK General Inc	88.86	94.08†	...	0.76
-do- Accum	103.32	109.04	...	0.76
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	54.60	57.51	+ 0.26	5.22
UK Income Inc	87.39	92.23†	...	1.66
UK Smlr Cos Inc	119.57	126.28	- 0.23	2.29
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	70.88	75.19	+ 0.84	...
-do- Accum	71.23	75.77	+ 0.83	...
Intl Bond	150.21	169.41†	+ 0.51	3.95
Cash Income	50.27	50.27†		6.41
-do- Accum	78.98	78.98†	+ 0.01	6.41
Challenger	102.95	109.25†	+ 0.41	0.75
Distributor	138.38	147.21†	+ 0.96	2.22
European	105.82	112.57	+ 0.43	0.58
Expl I-L Gilt	117.69	117.97†	+ 0.48	2.16
Foundation	133.12	141.61	+ 0.47	1.34
Global Opport	108.23	109.28	+ 0.56	2.53
Managed Inc	285.03	303.22	+ 1.80	1.58
Managed Acc	283.53	312.28	+ 1.84	1.58
Growth Inc	174.34	185.48	- 2.10	1.20
Growth Acc	183.69	195.41	- 2.20	1.20
Higher Income Inc #	44.85	47.72	+ 0.07	4.21
-do- Accum #	58.14	62.91	+ 0.09	4.21
High Yield Bond #	105.49	108.52†	+ 1.38	7.35
Income	394.82	420.02	+ 2.54	3.24
Intrepid	177.25	184.67†	- 0.24	3.08
Intl Grth	49.06	52.19	- 0.08	...
Japan	24.27	25.81	+ 0.33	...
Oriental Inc	102.86	108.57	- 0.70	..
-do- Accum	106.61	113.41	- 0.11	...
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2566				
High Income #	57.17	57.91†	...	5.68
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	167.16	175.52	+ 0.72	2.41
UK Equity ‡	51.32	...	+ 0.38	2.36
UK Equity Income #	58.63	...	+ 0.37	4.98
UK Smaller Cos ‡	50.36	...	+ 0.07	2.38
UK Equity Growth ‡	52.22	...	+ 0.90	1.76
UK Index Trckg ‡	51.45	...	+ 0.42	2.14
Intl Index Trckg ‡	52.90	...	- 0.20	0.60
International ‡	51.53	...	- 0.09	1.02
European ‡	52.50	...	+ 0.04	0.34
Nth American ‡	50.86	...	- 0.60	0.12
N Amer Smlr Cos ‡	50.35	...	- 0.62	0.05
Japanese ‡	54.76	...	+ 0.62	...
Pacific ‡	52.79	...	+ 0.04	1.83
South East Asian ‡	54.27	...	- 0.17	1.85
Sterling Bond ‡	51.70	...	+ 0.20	4.87
Intl Bond ‡	51.63	...	+ 0.22	3.91
Property	92.85	97.74†	- 0.12	4.98
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01208 770 808				
European Inc	451.50	481.97	- 0.50	0.17
-do- Accum	480.80	513.00	- 0.60	0.17
Japan Inc	71.69	75.77	+ 1.25	...
Nth American Inc	255.60	270.50	- 2.30	...
Worldwide Inc	252.10	267.20	- 0.60	...
HK & China Inc	133.50	142.40	- 0.90	1.71
Swiss Equities Inc	136.90	145.90	- 0.10	0.06
Wwide Bond Inc	74.69	78.91	+ 0.09	3.69
Emging Asia Inc	104.70	112.60†	+ 0.40	3.40
-do- Accum	107.10	115.20†	+ 0.50	3.40
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.27	50.27†	+ 0.01	6.44
Thailand Inc	47.10	50.79†	+ 1.71	..
Int Mngd PEP Inc	92.73	99.13	+ 0.52	0.60
Latn Am Cmp Inc	52.33	56.12	- 1.80	2.06
UK All Sh Bir Inc	84.26	89.72	+ 0.62	2.67
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Bnc	96.73	102.98	- 0.20	0.79
Global Portfolio	75.79	80.76	+ 0.21	..
Way Global Red	71.38	75.94	- 0.15	0.74
BD Global Grth	74.82	78.50	+ 0.04	0.48
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	152.80	163.90		7.11
Temple Equity Inc	58.49	66.70	+ 0.52	0.35
Hartley Growth	145.80	155.10	- 0.89	0.79
IPS Portfolio Inc	111.30	117.80	+ 0.20	..
UFC Growth	73.33	77.08	...	
Chatfield Port of Fds	58.87	62.46		0.12
Pyp Intl Equity	62.84	66.60	- 0.09	0.38
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 026 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	365.50	388.70†	- 3.80	1.15
-do- Accum	831.10	884.10	-13.10	1.15
Growth	245.30	259.20	- 0.90	1.40
Income	345.19	367.09	- 6.80	2.37
Intl Equity	350.90	373.30	- 1.70	0.65
-do- Accum	394.76	419.90	- 1.90	0.65
Equity Income #	93.31	99.25	- 0.54	3.69
Equity Growth	128.20	136.30	- 0.70	0.85
New Europe	169.30	178.40	+ 0.80	
UK Smll Cos Acc	101.80	108.80	+ 0.10	1.47
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	836.65	894.76	- 0.26	0.60
-do- Accum	848.00	904.73	- 0.27	0.60
Income #	589.87	630.63	+ 2.12	3.44
Wwide Recovery	543.45	581.93	- 0.64	0.69
Amer Growth Inc	416.36	442.67	- 2.58	...
-do- Accum	416.36	442.67	- 2.58	..
Intl Emerging Cos	318.47	340.62	+ 2.44	0.47
Far East Grwt Inc	200.02	213.53†	+ 0.82	0.80
-do- Accum	205.95	220.07	+ 0.40	0.50
Euro Gwth Inc	301.30	321.32†	- 0.80	0.37
-do- Accum	302.34	322.43	- 0.86	0.37
UK Growth Inc	141.18	150.98	+ 0.44	2.84
-do- Accum	158.10	169.18	+ 0.50	2.84
High Income #	155.27	166.97	- 0.65	3.64
Jap Gwth Inc	143.52	152.96	+ 1.61	...
-do- Accum	142.52	152.96	+ 1.61	...
PEP Bond	71.66	74.89	+ 0.12	7.00
PEP Growth	189.14	201.83	- 0.81	0.74
Asian Sh Mkts Inc	81.25	86.90	+ 0.53	0.80
-do- Accum	81.99	87.69	+ 0.54	0.89
Amer Smlr Co Inc	244.88	260.91†	+ 0.18	...
-do- Accum	244.88	260.91	+ 0.18	...
Global Bond	54.60	58.53	+ 0.15	5.41
UK Smaller Cos Inc	105.84	113.31	- 0.06	2.35
-do- Accum	116.17	124.25	- 0.08	2.35
Lat Am Grwth Inc	24.20	25.89	- 0.50	1.94
-do- Accum	24.59	26.31	- 0.50	1.94
Wwde Inc PEP #	49.75	52.65†	+ 0.04	3.87
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0181 291 3907				
American	185.33	197.10†	+ 2.11	...
European	142.98	152.08	+ 0.82	...
Global	41.23	43.85†	+ 0.44	...
Pacific	35.98	38.11	+ 0.44	..
UK Inc & Gth	98.23	104.56	- 0.08	0.67
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 638 0808				
Asia	39.28	42.42	+ 0.39	..
Emerg Mkts	29.73	31.45	- 0.15	...
Euro Fund	62.37	66.00	+ 0.33	...
Fund of Funds	224.20	237.30	+ 0.60	0.31
High Income #	63.32	66.81		5.30
Performance	34.12	37.27	+ 0.17	..
UK Growth	97.81	103.50	...	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 400 432				
Dividend	148.60	158.70	..	3.79
Inc Gth & Inc	346.20	368.10	- 0.58	...
UK & Gen	64.83	68.48	+ 0.05	0.98
Fund of Funds	83.30	88.70	+ 0.34	..
Pans Bal Growth	77.47	80.66	- 0.07	0.66
Enterprise	124.50	131.10†	- 0.47	1.31
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01132 740 700				
Principal Tst	207.20	214.80	+ 1.11	2.81
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 466600 Client Enq: 0345 633000				
Managed Tst	50.69	53.53	+ 0.18	2.82
Cash Haven Inc	101.33	101.93†	+ 0.02	6.15
Cash Haven Acc	131.55	132.20	+ 0.02	6.15
Dist Trust Inc	120.93	125.32	+ 0.60	4.59
Dist Trust Acc	149.58	155.60	+ 0.75	4.59
Global Growth	125.20	133.19	+ 0.51	0.60
Equity Inc	160.78	170.40†	+ 0.14	3.73
Equity	1114.55	1185.70	+ 8.17	1.59
European	402.66	417.28†	+ 0.77	0.75
High Income	107.93	114.82†	+ 0.12	4.48
Intl Gth	252.27	268.37	- 0.25	1.08
Intl Sm Co	97.69	103.29	- 0.61	1.35
Japanese	132.23	136.78	+ 1.30	
Mgd Income Tst #	52.13	54.02†	- 0.24	6.85
Nth Amer	345.87	357.60†	- 4.24	0.68
Pacific Mkts	84.35	87.26	+ 0.52	1.56
Premier Inc	54.58	58.78	+ 0.29	4.95
Sm Cos	103.61	110.22†	+ 0.07	2.26
Spec Sits	158.27	162.05	+ 0.61	1.71
UK Growth	189.52	201.62	+ 1.34	1.85
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 600 4300				
HI Inc Inv Inc	108.55	113.23	+ 0.24	3.42
Investment Trust	129.74	137.97	..	
UK Smaller Cos	106.83	113.53	- 0.76	1.92
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	470.00	498.60†	- 1.60	2.20
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	32.82	34.38†	+ 0.13	..
Cash	49.85	50.04†	+ 0.01	5.14
Emerging Mkts	32.84	34.20†	- 0.17	..
Europe	95.53	98.97†	+ 0.33	
Global Fixed Int #	51.83	54.19†	+ 0.16	3.98
Japan	32.27	33.58†	+ 0.32	..
North America	95.30	99.53†	+ 0.89	..
UK	93.04	96.72†	+ 0.12	0.07
UK Equity Inc #	73.98	78.96†	- 1.08	3.49
UK Fixed Int #	57.33	59.87†	+ 0.07	5.09
Five Arrows Independently-Managed Funds				
Independent Gwth	62.99	66.24	+ 0.21	..
Independent Inc #	63.82	67.28	+ 0.04	2.78
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	32.57		+0.410	..
Asia Pacific ‡	39.38		-0.210	1.92
Europe ‡	57.22		-0.380	..
Japan ‡	39.70		+0.480	
Latin America ‡	23.45		-0.670	1.21
North America ‡	55.98		-0.870	..
UK Eq Income A	54.68		-0.030	3.81
UK Major Cos ‡	56.35		-0.097	0.87
UK Smaller Cos ‡	50.30		-0.100	1.66
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 0103 Dealing: 0870 601 0063				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1517.60	1605.00	+ 9.00	1.20
Equity Income #	146.40	154.90†	+ 0.10	3.88
European	268.60	284.20†	- 0.40	..
High Inc Bond	82.74	82.82†	+ 0.06	5.13
Portfolio	148.70	157.30†	+ 0.20	1.18
UK Index Tckg	263.90	279.00†	+ 1.90	2.81
UK Leading Cos	117.30	124.10†	+ 1.10	2.22
UK Smaller Cos	123.20	130.70	+ 0.80	1.25
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist #	216.30	228.80	+ 0.80	1.47
Intl Growth	180.70	189.50	- 0.40	
Managed	237.50	251.30	+ 0.40	0.44
Pacific Basin	88.44	87.52	+ 0.29	..
United States	192.00	203.10	- 1.30	0.08
Sun Alliance Trusts				
Far East	133.70	141.40	+ 0.50	1.18
Wwide Bond	50.82	52.88	+ 0.04	2.09
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 794 409				
American Growth	298.20	314.30	- 0.90	0.77
European Growth	247.10	262.80	+ 0.20	1.40
Far East Growth	95.91	103.10	+ 0.50	2.27
Japan Growth	87.80	93.34†	+ 0.86	0.46
Special Sits	247.30	263.00	+ 1.70	2.39
UK Growth	138.70	146.40†	+ 1.80	2.33
Intl Growth	347.50	369.70	+ 1.10	1.73
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6000				
Far East Inc	109.20	115.60		0.52
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	609.30	644.60		0.76
-do- Accum	970.50	1027.00		0.76
Growth Inc	199.10	210.70		0.89
-do- Accum	206.60	218.60		0.90
International Inc	526.80	557.50		0.54
-do- Accum	738.60	781.60		0.54
Nth Am & Gen Inc	538.30	569.60		0.09
UK Gen Prog Inc	355.60	376.30		1.33
-do- Accum	418.60	442.90		1.53
UK High Inc Inc	185.10	195.90†		3.45
SAMBA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 390 6872				
European Gwth	144.09	153.29†	- 0.09	..
Global Bd	93.43	98.97	+ 0.06	3.80
UK Gwth	121.67	129.64†	- 0.19	1.46
SARASIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Dlg 0171 782 0430 Enq 0171 248 0060				
Growth Acc	360.70	379.70	...	0.41
Income	694.10	730.60	...	3.41
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smlr Cos	176.00	186.40	- 1.10	..
Cash	151.50	151.50		6.60
China Dragon	44.82	47.42	+ 0.06	1.31
Commodity	79.50	84.57	- 0.73	..
Emerging Mkts	27.19	28.93	- 0.51	1.15
European Gwth	361.10	384.60†		..
Euro Smlr Cos	94.21	100.30†	- 0.70	..
Extra Income #	72.27	74.80†	+ 0.32	4.66
Far Eastern	69.44	73.87	+ 0.36	
FE Sm Cos	37.28	39.65	+ 0.31	0.48
Financial Secs	440.40	468.50†	- 3.20	0.64
Gold & Exploration	29.69	31.57	- 0.21	
Growth	580.30	603.30	+ 2.30	0.64
High Income	58.08	58.68†	+ 0.19	6.42
Intl Bond	169.40	179.10	+ 0.38	4.38
ITU	257.40	273.80	- 1.30	0.79
Japan Growth	127.40	135.00	+ 2.00	..
Japan Smaller	112.80	119.60	+ 0.40	..
Korea	27.28	29.18†	+ 1.15	..
Latin America	32.23	34.29	- 0.72	2.06
Mgd Monthly Inc	77.71	77.59†	+ 0.13	0.80
Premier Eq Grth	235.10	250.10	+ 1.50	0.65
Premier Eq Inc #	489.80	520.20†	+ 2.40	3.29
SE Asia	26.93	28.65	+ 0.09	0.43
Southern Africa	28.32	30.13	- 0.31	4.34
UK & Overs	247.50	263.30	+ 0.10	0.08
UK Equity Gth	113.80	120.80	+ 0.70	0.39
UK Eqty Inc Inc #	352.70	375.20	+ 1.30	3.20
UK Grth & Inc #	416.90	443.50	+ 2.20	2.66
UK Sm Cos	53.57	57.63	- 0.25	0.41
US Growth	326.70	345.90	- 3.10	
New Europe ‡	33.29		- 0.06	...
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Client 0800 526 535 Tele: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	552.13	583.81†	- 4.86	0.24
-do- Accum	616.47	651.84†	- 5.44	0.24
European Gwth	138.36	147.25†	- 0.46	0.39
Euro Smlr Cos	140.82	149.05†	- 0.11	0.09
-do- Accum	142.84	151.20†	- 0.11	0.09
Far Eastern Gth	80.02	85.35	- 1.18	0.24
-do- Accum	81.84	87.68	- 1.19	0.24
Gilt & Fixed Int #	63.35	66.75	+ 0.37	5.24
Global Bond #	47.82	49.21	+ 0.15	4.86
-do- Accum #	82.77	84.87	+ 0.25	4.86
Global Emer Mkts	34.82	36.92	- 0.08	0.80
-do- Accum	34.74	37.09	- 0.09	0.80
Income #	486.65	520.75	+ 2.44	4.46
-do- Accum #	1611.24	1732.52	+ 8.08	4.46
Japan Smlr Cos	201.10	214.50	+ 2.33	..
-do- Accum	201.50	214.83	+ 2.33	..
Japan Enterprise	46.58	49.80	+ 0.58	
Pacific Gwth	95.58	101.85	+ 0.55	0.79
-do- Accum	100.30	106.99	+ 0.58	0.79
Portfolio	112.69	119.99	+ 0.52	2.08
-do- Accum	128.42	136.32	+ 0.59	2.08
Seoul	21.55	22.98†	+ 0.56	0.71
-do- Accum	21.55	22.98†	+ 0.56	0.71
Strategic Inc	117.13	124.71	+ 0.41	0.07
Strategic Acc	121.84	129.73	+ 0.43	0.07
Tokyo	103.57	110.47	+ 1.92	..
-do- Accum	104.82	111.59	+ 1.95	..
UK Enterprise	370.74	395.45	+ 2.65	2.51
-do- Accum	476.13	507.86	+ 2.82	2.51
UK Equity	974.65	999.52	+ 1.86	2.01
-do- Accum	798.14	836.54	+ 3.90	2.01
UK Smaller Cos	364.30	388.58†	- 0.87	0.97
-do- Accum	441.06	470.47†	- 0.07	0.97
US Smlr Cos	323.84	344.17†	- 2.04	...
-do- Accum	323.64	344.17†	- 1.04	..
Institutional Funds				
European	453.42	470.69	+ 2.83	1.04
-do- Accum	521.10	540.26	+ 3.26	1.04
Euro Smlr Cos	44.86	46.75†	+ 0.02	1.51
-do- Accum	48.54	51.58†	+ 0.02	1.51
Global Equity Inc	118.18	122.72†	- 0.30	0.96
Japan Smlr Cos	20.16	20.89	+ 0.15	0.00
-do- Accum	20.47	21.32	+ 0.16	0.98
Overseas Equity	240.82	250.11	- 0.24	1.60
-do- Accum	257.86	267.00	- 0.25	1.60
Oseas Smlr Cos	132.56	138.06	- 0.30	0.37
-do- Accum	141.90	147.77	- 0.31	0.37
Pacific	152.55	158.90†	- 0.16	2.54
-do- Accum	175.61	182.91†	- 0.19	2.54
Recovery	2321.57	2418.30	+ 2.05	3.05
-do- Accum	3579.84	3791.48	+ 3.08	3.05
UK Small Cos	141.41	147.30	- 0.17	3.15
-do- Accum	163.72	170.54	- 0.20	3.15
US Smlr Cos	73.24	76.21†	+ 0.39	0.35
-do- Accum	75.88	78.95†	+ 0.40	0.35
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2300				
Equity Income	73.10	77.98	+ 0.37	2.83
Equity Trust	105.18	111.14	+ 0.73	2.54
Equity Strategy	104.88	110.51	+ 0.74	1.02
European Gwth	153.77	162.81	+ 0.63	0.46
UK Smaller Cos	71.71	75.83	+ 0.23	2.33
Medium Inc	99.59	102.18	+ 1.01	6.53
Japanese	49.77	52.63	+ 0.47	
Asia Pacific	87.04	92.04	+ 0.68	1.41
American	183.80	194.50	- 2.42	0.31
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	37.19	37.19		6.48
UK Eq Gwth Inc	77.82	83.73	+ 0.45	2.18
-do- Accum	109.00	117.19	+ 0.64	2.18
Intl Income	359.17	381.92	+ 1.54	0.81
-do- Accum	651.32	692.57	+ 2.79	0.81
European	159.45	169.84†	+ 0.48	1.04
Japan	48.56	52.50†	+ 0.76	..
American	169.86	178.82	- 1.03	0.60
Far East Tacs	58.33	62.22	- 0.13	2.01
Ethical Inc	44.15	47.22	+ 0.04	1.76
-do- Accum	52.30	55.94	+ 0.05	1.76
UK Blue Chip Inc	51.76	55.26	+ 0.52	2.12
-do- Accum	55.14	58.97	+ 0.66	2.12
UK Equity Inc	56.11	59.89†	+ 0.33	3.76
-do- Accum	87.39	93.22†	+ 0.51	3.76
UK Global Inc	62.91	66.38	+ 0.52	1.93
-do- Accum	69.97	74.43	+ 0.36	1.93
Wwide Tact	107.35	114.20	+ 0.30	1.20
Europe Tactical	121.82	129.57	+ 0.39	0.73
Technology	239.32	253.71	- 0.13	0.16
Dist Inc	31.16	33.08	+ 0.27	4.59
-do- Accum	34.00	36.17	+ 0.23	4.59
UK Ex Inc Inc	28.88	29.66	+ 0.08	5.85
-do- Accum	31.97	33.80	+ 0.10	5.85
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	690.50	734.80	+ 5.70	1.60
American	554.70	587.10	- 3.80	0.05
Pacific	298.50	315.80	+ 0.30	0.31
European	982.80	1019.50	+ 3.60	0.07
Worldwide	107.60	113.70	+ 0.60	0.38
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	434.80	462.83	+ 3.70	1.81
-do- Accum	596.80	634.50	+ 5.10	1.81
UK Str Co Eq Inc	214.10	227.70	- 0.90	3.09
-do- Accum	273.10	290.50	- 1.20	3.09
Select Equity Inc	104.20	111.90†	+ 0.70	1.50
Income Plus Inc	109.90	116.80†	+ 0.40	3.58
European Inc	580.70	301.00†	+ 1.20	0.89
-do- Accum	771.90	819.80	+ 1.40	0.89
Far Eastern Inc	112.40	119.50†	+ 0.20	1.23
-do- Accum	133.60	142.10	+ 0.30	1.23
Japanese Inc	44.51	47.35†	+ 0.56	..
Nth American Inc	321.30	353.20	- 2.80	0.04
-do- Accum	577.50	612.80	- 3.10	0.04
Intl Growth Inc	265.80	282.40	- 0.10	0.19
Wwide Venture Inc	117.20	124.40†	...	0.45

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	570.70	603.00	+ 2.90	1.46
-do- Accum	900.10	960.50	+ 4.70	1.46
UK High Inc #	277.30	292.00	+ 1.10	2.97
-do- Accum #	456.60	482.60	+ 1.80	2.97
Europe Inc	765.40	808.60	+ 1.10	0.32
-do- Accum	818.60	864.90	+ 1.20	0.32
Nth Amer Inc	478.50	505.50	- 3.60	
-do- Accum	320.10	338.20	+ 2.20	0.29
Global Inc	349.10	368.80	+ 2.40	0.29
Global Acc	159.50	168.50		0.93
UK Spec Sits Inc	112.69	119.00	- 1.00	2.84
South East Asia	100.10	100.10		6.72
Cash Trust Inc	113.59	119.80	- 0.80	2.58
UK Smlr Cos Inc	133.30	139.30	- 0.10	2.59
-do- Accum	97.23	102.25	+ 0.20	3.00
Intl Bond Inc	92.92	98.40	+ 0.20	..
International Strat				
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	243.40	256.20	- 1.40	0.14
Nth American	205.50	216.30	- 2.10	
Intl Bond & Curr	142.50	150.00		6.33
Pooled Pension	301.60	324.30†	- 0.70	1.96
Smaller Cos	123.10	129.60†	- 4.70	1.06
UK General #	215.30	226.60	- 0.90	1.89
Far Eastern	55.45	58.37†	+ 0.40	1.01
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 5225				
Continental	143.80	151.70	- 0.40	1.00
Global Gwth	106.10	111.90	- 0.60	0.50
Inv Tst Port	66.50	71.10	- 0.36	0.80
Managed	1680.02	1753.27	- 0.01	2.30
Pref Inc #	115.30	122.40		6.60
Smaller Cos	237.60	260.10	+ 1.00	0.60
Ireland Sit Reorganised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	118.46		- 0.24	3.38
Sterling Reserve ‡	161.13		+ 0.01	6.72
Corporate Inc ‡	107.23		+ 0.09	5.96
Tol Pan ‡	72.46		+ 0.38	
Asiac ‡	50.61		- 8.50	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	213.42		- 2.61	..
European ‡	257.28		+ 0.44	
Global Bond ‡	94.31		+ 0.29	6.66
General ‡	39.84		- 0.70	
UK Growth ‡	133.61		- 0.16	2.32
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	79.98		- 0.16	3.47
Investment Trust ‡	125.55		- 0.35	1.79
The Football Fd ‡	79.80		- 0.53	..
Reserve Bld Up ‡	111.34		+ 0.15	
Orrack Reserve ‡	104.91		+ 0.06	4.80
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	643.80	680.10	+ 7.30	
Capital	186.20	197.00	+ 1.30	0.91
Cash	101.25	101.25	+ 0.01	6.47
European	241.40	255.40	+ 0.40	0.13
Far Eastern	127.70	135.10	+ 0.20	0.02
Growth	218.60	231.30	- 1.70	1.19
Income #	179.10	189.50	+ 0.60	5.08
Managed	188.70	198.70	+ 1.30	1.14
Smlr Secs	655.20	693.30	- 0.20	0.39
Thoroughbred	222.00	234.80	+ 1.50	1.17
SOCIETE GENERALE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Broker Desk 0800 783 3084				
UK Growth Acc	90.15	95.80	+ 1.24	1.56
Technology	116.40	123.60	+ 0.30	
Euro Gwth Acc	88.241	93.63	+ 0.51	
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 003				
Capital Reserve	62.33	64.25	- 0.10	6.50
Ethical	85.65	91.60	- 0.05	1.27
European Growth	125.39	132.89	- 0.10	0.19
Income #	70.15	75.02	+ 0.50	3.88
Intl Growth	133.90	141.90	- 0.50	0.15
Managed	123.40	130.70	+ 0.10	0.14
UK Growth	81.63	87.51	+ 0.38	1.37
STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS LTD				
Cust Info Team: 0800 33 33 53 Adv Line: 0800 33 33 56				
Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares				
Asn Eqty Gth Acc ‡	50.00		..	
Asia Pac Gth Acc ‡	51.09			
Corporate Bd Inc ‡	57.55		†	5.48
Corporate Bd Acc ‡	60.47			5.48
Eur Eqty Gth Acc ‡	50.51		..	
Global Advtg Inc ‡	56.65		+ 0.20	1.11
Global Advtg Acc ‡	62.93		+ 0.20	1.11
Growth & Inc Inc #	44.19		+ 0.20	3.80
Growth & Inc Acc #	55.17		+ 0.20	3.80
Intl Eqty Gth Acc ‡	50.41		+ 0.10	
Jap Eqty Gth Acc ‡	60.77		+ 0.20	
Managed Acc ‡	78.67		+ 0.30	1.66
UK Equity Gth Acc ‡	138.20		+ 0.20	0.73
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc #	52.67		+ 0.20	4.51
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc #	75.13		+ 0.20	4.51
UK Ethical Acc ‡	48.15		+ 0.10	1.09
UK Gilt Inc ‡	37.90			5.66
UK Gilt Acc ‡	37.92			5.68
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡	50.60			0.63
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZS)	6.012	6.353	+0.176	1.75
US Eqs (US$)	4.935	5.224	-0.036	0.62
Far East Eqs (Yen)	212.088	224.891	-1.315	
FI Europe	225.03	239.011	+4.500	0.99
FI N Amer (US$)	4.415	4.665	+0.056	
FI Japan (Yen)	115.395	121.629	-1.490	
FI Asia Ex-Jap (US$)	2.076	2.204†	-0.181	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	683.	721.40	- 5.30	
British #	1645.	1740.40	+11.50	2.27
Emerging Mkts	119.60	127.30	- 1	1.40
Euro Smlr Inc	145.80	154.40	+ 0.80	
Euro Small Co	72.47	77.12	+ 0.10	0.23
Japan	97.08	102.60	+ 1.50	
Asia Pacific	302.20	321.60		2.05
-do- Accum	333.30	354.90		2.05
Inv Trust Acc	337.70	357.90	- 1.70	0.80
Mngd Equity	252.60	267.20	+ 1.70	2.36
Mngd Cash	96.34	96.34	+ 0.01	6.23
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 726				
Asia Pacific	14.96	15.82	+ 0.03	1.31
Corp Bd Gth Inc	112.24	118.27	+ 0.22	5.79
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	120.77	127.80	+ 0.26	5.79
European	79.26	83.67		0.05
Japan	27.17	28.69	+ 0.42	
Managed Assets	179.55	189.90	+ 1.37	2.12
North American	71.60	75.77	- 0.47	0.02
Smlr Cos Inc	35.28	37.31†	- 0.39	2.09
Smlr Cos Acc	39.97	42.27	- 1.12	2.09
UK Growth Inc	85.85	89.95	+ 0.67	2.12
UK Growth Acc	99.64	105.28	+ 0.79	2.12
Extra Income #	57.38	60.67†	+ 0.79	3.76
Worldwide Gth	54.05	57.17†	+ 0.16	0.80
For TSB Unit Tsts see Lloyds TSB Unit Tsts				
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0800 435876				
British	547.56	576.38	+ 3.91	1.57
European	132.52	138.75†	- 0.49	1.19
TEMPLETON INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Templeton Funds (OEIC)				
Alpha Shares				
Growth Acc ‡	236.23		+ 0.15	4.41
Growth Inc ‡	245.93		+ 0.13	4.41
Balanced Acc ‡	264.40		- 0.64	5.47
Balanced Inc ‡	285.12		- 0.50	5.47
Value Acc ‡	169.41		- 0.57	3.93
Value Inc ‡	145.41		- 0.49	3.93
Beta Shares (£250,000 minimum)				
Growth Acc ‡	861.24		+ 0.44	4.41
Growth Inc ‡	845.18		+ 0.44	4.41
Balanced Acc ‡	927.52		- 2.24	5.47
Balanced Inc ‡	989.63		- 2.19	5.47
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 629 0062				
Capital	132.70	141.20	+ 1.10	8.75
International	86.92	92.40	+ 1.55	
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 0068000 Inter Serv: 0800 0684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Funds				
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	53.50	56.02†	...	0.50
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	54.11	56.65†	...	1.87
Caut Mg Gth Acc	55.51	58.22†	...	3.39
Managed Income #	53.43	55.94†	...	3.13
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	56.56	..	+ 0.11	6.67
UK Equity Inc #	55.94	..	+ 0.25	3.36
UK Growth ‡	56.64	..	+ 0.36	1.33
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	52.18	..	+ 0.31	2.79
UK Money Secs ‡	50.71			6.91
UK Monthly Inc #	51.28	†	+ 0.24	3.36
UK Select Gwth ‡	55.63	..	+ 0.24	1.33
UK Smaller Cos ‡	45.82	..	+ 0.01	1.28
Sterling Bond #	55.04	..	+ 0.39	5.45
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	58.62		- 0.39	
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	60.36		- 0.42	
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	52.31		+ 0.10	
Asia Growth ‡	30.69		- 0.03	0.38
Emg Mkt Bd Fd #	41.29		+ 0.08	7.65
European Growth ‡	62.46		+ 0.02	..
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	64.11		+ 0.09	0.13
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	62.56		- 0.10	..
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	30.18		+ 0.13	0.05
Global Bond #	53.92		+ 0.15	4.08
Glb Sel Gth Acc ‡	51.38		+ 0.02	..
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	34.76		+ 0.40	..
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	34.86		+ 0.33	..
Latin Amer Gth ‡	32.97		- 0.57	1.90
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	56.17	...	+ 0.24	3.36
UK Growth ‡	56.71	...	+ 0.37	1.61
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	52.25	...	+ 0.32	2.79
UK Inst Gwth ‡	56.56	...	+ 0.39	2.16
UK Ocen Eqs ‡	53.26	...	+ 0.31	1.36
UK Select Gwth ‡	55.69	...	+ 0.25	1.82
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	45.68	...	+ 0.02	1.76
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	59.98	...	- 0.39	..
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	60.74	...	- 0.42	..
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	32.58	...	+ 0.11	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	30.85	...	- 0.03	0.84
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	62.82	...	+ 0.02	0.33
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	64.48	...	+ 0.09	0.60
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	62.85	...	- 0.11	0.26
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	30.34	...	+ 0.14	0.59
Global Bond #	53.83	...	+ 0.15	4.08
Japan Growth Acc ‡	34.98	...	+ 0.40	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	34.94	...	+ 0.34	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	33.10	...	- 0.57	1.97
UNITED FRIENDLY UT MGMT LTD				
01277 690 396				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	452.66	481.55	+ 3.67	3.31
UK Equity Gwth	473.50	503.72	- 3.41	1.58
European	270.91	288.20	- 0.16	0.91
Nth American	125.13	133.12†	- 1.38	
Far Eastern	56.03	59.61†	+ 0.46	0.79
Money	79.42	79.42	+ 0.01	6.40
Fixed Interest #	101.87	108.23	+ 0.56	5.44
Index Linked Gilt	95.36	101.38	+ 0.33	1.94
VIRGIN DIRECT PPS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	121.15	121.15	+ 0.45	4.54
Pens Growth	137.83	137.83	...	
Pens Inc Prot	130.00	130.00		
UK Index Tracking @	173.61	173.61	+ 1.49	1.80
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 3444				
Short Dtd Gilt	139.10	140.80	+ 0.10	..
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8495	0.8549	+0.0009	..
Gilt Income	56.21	57.07	+ 0.12	5.50
Gilt Growth	100.99	102.53	+ 0.20	
Sterling Bond	56.22	57.21†	+ 0.20	5.70
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 200 4800				
Intl Mgd	75.85	78.51	+ 0.36	1.53
UK Stockmarket	138.89	147.80	+ 1.00	1.93
Corporate Bd Inc	50.63	53.16	+ 0.12	4.42
-do- Accum	60.32	63.45	+ 0.13	4.42

Source FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data; # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

Admitting unconstitutional confession

Mohammed (Allie) v The State

Before Lord Steyn, Lord Hutton, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough, Lord Millett and Sir Patrick Russell

[Judgment December 9]

A voluntary confession obtained in breach of a suspect's rights under the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago was not always inadmissible, and the trial judge had a discretion to admit or exclude it.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held in allowing an appeal by Allie Mohammed from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago of his appeal against his conviction of murder.

Mr Andrew Nicol, QC and Mr Julian Knowles for the appellant; Mr Timothy Cassel, QC and Mr James Dingemans for the state.

LORD STEYN said that the police had obtained a confession statement from the appellant in breach of his constitutional rights because the police had not informed him of his right to communicate with a lawyer.

The trial judge, proceeding on the basis that he had a discretion, exercised it in favour of admitting the statement. The Court of Appeal held that the judge had a discretion and had not erred in the exercise of it.

On appeal, counsel for the appellant had submitted that the rule was that confession evidence obtained, in breach of a suspect's rights was always inadmissible, and so the judge should have excluded the confession.

Alternatively, the rule was that a confession obtained in breach of constitutional rights was prima facie inadmissible and might only be admitted in exceptional circumstances or where there were compelling circumstances for so doing.

Fundamental as the rights of a suspect to communicate with his lawyer were, it did not follow that such rights could only be given due recognition by an absolute exclusionary rule such as was enunciated in *Miranda v Arizona* ([1966] 384 US 436).

Such an absolute rule did not easily fit into a system based on English criminal procedure. The judge's discretion to admit or exclude a confession was not entirely abolished by the relevant Trinidad and Tobago constitutional provision.

If there was any dispute about issues of fact affecting an alleged breach of a constitutional right the burden of proof rested on the prosecution and the standard was proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Once the facts had been determined the occasion for the exercise of the judge's discretion arose. Under the law of Trinidad and Tobago the discretion was neither prima facie exclusionary nor prima facie inclusionary, but it was not a completely open textured discretion.

On the one hand, the judge had to weigh the interest of the community in securing relevant evidence bearing on the commission of serious crime so that justice could be done. On the other hand, he had to weigh the interest of the individual who had been exposed to an illegal invasion of his rights.

In *King v The Queen* ([1969] 1 AC 304, 319) Lord Hodson had observed that it mattered not whether the right infringed was enshrined in a constitution or was simply a common law right. The Board took too narrow a view on that point and that view was no longer good law.

However, it was important to bear in mind the nature of a particular constitutional guarantee and the nature of a particular breach.

A breach of a defendant's constitutional right to a fair trial would inevitably result in the conviction being quashed.

By contrast the constitutional provision requiring a suspect to be informed of his right to consult a lawyer, although of great importance, was a somewhat lesser right and potential breaches could vary greatly in gravity.

In such a case not every breach would result in a confession being excluded.

But the fact that there has been a breach of a constitutional right was a cogent factor militating in favour of the exclusion of the confession.

Nevertheless, the judge had to perform a balancing exercise in the context of the circumstances of the case. It would generally not be right to admit a confession where the police had deliberately frustrated a suspect's constitutional rights.

In the present case the judge was entitled to conclude that the police had acted in good faith. He took into account the competing considerations and the exercise of his discretion had not been shown to be flawed.

The defence called no witnesses other than the appellant and waived the right to make a closing speech to the jury.

The judge permitted the prosecutor to make a lengthy closing speech and the Court of Appeal held that the judge had been wrong to do so. It was an irregularity.

The prosecutor made a wholly improper speech, which contained many inflammatory passages.

Their Lordships could not be satisfied that, if the prosecutor had not made the speech, the jury would inevitably have convicted. The conviction and sentence of death were quashed.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Charles Russell.

Brevity in court is always a virtue not a vice

Regina v Farr

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Johnson

[Judgment December 8]

A trial judge was under no obligation, when summing up, to rehearse all the evidence or all the arguments. Brevity in summing up, as in examination or cross-examination of witnesses and in counsels' speeches, was a virtue, not a vice.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when allowing an appeal by Roger John Thomas Farr against his conviction on April 7, 1998 at Exeter Crown Court (Judge Neville and a jury) of trading with intent to defraud creditors and failing to give the liquidator documents of a company being wound up.

Mr Jeffrey Pegden, QC and Mr Patrick Gibbs, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Ian Glenn, QC and Miss Jane Miller for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that it had been submitted on behalf of the appellant that his convictions were unsafe for a number of reasons. One related to the summing-up which, it was said, failed to put the salient features of the defence and was inadequate, unbalanced and unfair.

The summing-up in the case, following a 13-day trial, lasted just over an hour. That fact in itself offered no ground for legitimate complaint. On the contrary, brevity in summing up, as in examination or cross-examination of witnesses and in counsels' speeches, was a virtue, not a vice.

It could not be too strongly emphasised that when summing up a judge was under no obligation to rehearse all the evidence or all the arguments. As Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest said in *McGreevy v Director of Public Prosecutions* ([1973] 1 WLR 276, 281) quoting Lord Lowry, Chief Justice of Northern Ireland:

"It is not essential that the trial judge should make every point that can be made for the defence ... the fundamental requirements are correct directions in point of law, an accurate review of the main facts and alleged facts, and a general impression of fairness."

In *R v Wilson* ([1991] Crim LR 838), Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, had said:

"It was, as we have already pointed out, a very short trial. The judge took the view that it was not necessary for him to go into detail about the evidence which had been given by the girls. Indeed [in the summing-up] he says this: 'Members of the jury, the evidence has been within a very small compass. You heard the girl in the witness box. You heard the defendant in the witness box. I do not think I need to review the facts with you.' There is no reason why he should not take that line. Indeed it is a line which, in a case as short and simple as this, might well be more generally adopted."

Their Lordships respectfully and emphatically endorsed those observations.

Of course, generally speaking, the longer a trial lasted the greater would be a jury's need for assistance from the judge in relation to the evidence.

Many jurors did not have the experience, ability or opportunity of a judge to note significant evidence and to cross-reference evidence from different sources which related to the same issue.

Accordingly, in a trial lasting several days or more it was generally of assistance to the jury if the judge summarised those factual issues which were not disputed and, where there was significant dispute as to material facts, identified succinctly those pieces of evidence which were in conflict.

By so doing, the judge could focus the jury's attention on those factual issues which they had to resolve.

However, it was never appropriate for a summing-up to be a mere rehearsal of evidence. Lest there be any doubt it should be made plain that the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, did not and would not look favourably on appeals based merely on a judge's failure to refer to particular pieces of evidence or particular arguments by counsel.

In the present case the ground of appeal relating to the inadequacy of the summing-up was, as presented to the court, a good deal more broadly based than that.

The case against the appellant was very strong. That in itself served to underline the necessity for the judge, when summing up, to place fairly before the jury such defence as was advanced.

In this case that was not done, and their Lordships felt constrained to say that the summing-up had many characteristics of a speech for the prosecution.

In the circumstances of the case their Lordships concluded that the appellants' convictions were unsafe and should be quashed. A retrial was ordered.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Central London.

Re-starting time running by fresh demand on bank

Mahomed v Bank of Baroda

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Mantell

Judgment November 16]

Sums deposited in a bank account created a debt between the bank and its customer repayable on demand and, for the purposes of the Limitation Act 1980, time started to run from the date of the demand.

The customer could not, by making fresh demands as often as he liked, create a fresh cause of action.

However, a demand for closure and repayment of the account could be retracted if the customer changed his mind and notified the bank by making another demand for "repayment at next maturity", so that if the bank continued holding the account, the contract would start afresh with time running from the date of the later demand.

The Court of Appeal so stated when, inter alia, dismissing two consolidated appeals by the defendant bank, the Bank of Baroda, in an action brought by the plaintiff, Abdul Satar Abdul Aziz Mahomed. Both arose in an action for moneys standing to the plaintiff's credit in a US dollar term deposit account maintained with the bank.

Two defences were raised: first, that the deposit was security for the continuing indebtedness to the bank of a company called Manlon Trading Ltd; second, that the claim was time-barred under the 1980 Act. Both defences failed.

The first appeal was against the order of Mr Justice Harman whereby in proceedings brought by the plaintiff pursuant to Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court the judge refused the bank leave to defend in relation to their defence of security, on the basis that Manlon's liability to the bank had been discharged in 1987.

The second appeal was against the order of Mr Michael Burton, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, rejecting the Limitation Act defence and ordering payment of the sum claimed, amounting to US$330,000.

On June 8, 1988 Manlon was wound up. The plaintiff's first written demand dated July 8, 1989 for payment of the sum standing to his credit at the bank was refused on the ground that it was security for Manlon's indebtedness to the bank. Following further exchanges, the plaintiff instructed solicitors who on May 25, 1990 wrote to the bank demanding repayment of the plaintiff's deposit.

Mr John Cherryman, QC and Mr Howard Smith for the defendant bank; Mr Matthew Collings for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, after giving his reasons for dismissing the first appeal, said, on the second appeal, that the bank challenged the conclusion of the deputy judge that the May 1990 demand was a further demand which set time running afresh.

The bank argued that:

1 Sums deposited in a bank account created a debt between the bank and its customer which was repayable on demand. That such a demand was a necessary ingredient in the cause of action against a bank for money lent was decided by the Court of Appeal in *Joachimson v Swiss Bank Corporation* ([1921] 3 KB 110).

2 Under the *Limitation* Act 1980 time started to run from the date of the demand or, in the case of a term deposit, immediately after the agreed period expired. The first demand was made on July 8, 1989 and required closure and payment on July 17. It was from that date that time started to run.

3 Once time started to run it would continue to do so and, as the deputy judge himself said: "a plaintiff cannot simply extend the limitation period by serving another demand and seeking to start the six years up again".

4 The reasons given by the deputy judge for holding that the second demand was a valid one were unsound: so far from the letter of May 25, 1990 ratifying what the bank had done by way of continuing to operate the account actively since the previous demand, it complained about the bank's "refusal to comply" with the earlier instructions.

5 Nothing had occurred to stop time running in respect of the first demand and no new agreement had come into being which entitled the plaintiff to make a fresh demand and time start running again.

The plaintiff met that argument in two ways.

His first and wider argument was that there was nothing to stop a bank customer from making as many demands as he liked and each one created a fresh right of action with its own fresh six-year limitation period. The deputy judge was wrong, he submitted, to say that "a plaintiff cannot simply extend the limitation period by serving another demand and seeking to start the six years up again".

Failing that, the plaintiff sought to uphold the judgment on the narrower basis adopted by the deputy judge.

The temptation to accede to the plaintiff's wider submission was acute. It was after all surprising and unattractive to find a bank taking the Limitation Act defence in the first place.

But the consequences of accepting that submission were, as Mr Collings recognised, that in no circumstances could a bank ever successfully invoke the 1980 Act, they could never prevent the customer from creating a new cause of action by means of a fresh demand, and his Lordship was not prepared to go that far.

Take the present case and assume, contrary to the facts, that after Manlon went into liquidation and before the plaintiff's first demand the bank had purported to appropriate the deposit towards the discharge of Manlon's liability.

Had the bank then refused the plaintiff's demand on the basis of that appropriation and the plaintiff waited over six years before suing, his claim would have been statute-barred.

His Lordship could see no basis on which he could thereafter have resurrected his statute-barred claim simply by making a fresh demand. That would be to circumvent sections 5 and 6 of the 1980 Act. Were it otherwise, not merely bankers but others too, sued as debtors under contracts of loan, would effectively be outside the protection of the 1980 Act. Section 6 of the Act would effectively be a dead letter.

Certainly the relevant part of the *Encyclopaedia of Banking Law* (1998), dealing with limitation of actions, would need to be rewritten: it was clearly implicit in that work that the problems of limitation in the field of banking could not in every case be overcome simply by the making of a fresh demand.

That said, his Lordship did not accept Mr Cherryman's submission that a demand, once made, could not be retracted. If a customer, having demanded closure and repayment of his account, then changed his mind, he could notify the bank accordingly and, assuming always that the bank was content to continue holding the account, the contract would in effect start afresh. The cause of action arising from the original demand would have ended and a fresh one would arise upon the making of a fresh demand.

That seemed to his Lordship essentially the thinking underlying the judgment below. True, the plaintiff never expressly withdrew his earlier demand, but such withdrawal was necessarily implicit in the May 1990 demand for "payment at next maturity" which would otherwise have been inconsistent with it.

There was no question here of the bank denying the credit balance or being unwilling to maintain the account. On the contrary, as the judge pointed out, they actively operated the account throughout.

His Lordship would, accordingly, uphold the judge's conclusion that the plaintiff was entitled to make a further demand and start time running afresh.

Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Mantell concurred.

Solicitors: Balsara & Co; Hobson Audley Hopkins & Wood.

Proving misfeasance in public office

Three Rivers District Council and Others v Governor and Company of the Bank of England (No 3)

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment December 4]

The two supposed limbs of the tort of misfeasance in public office should not be too sharply distinguished. In every case there had to be a deliberate and dishonest abuse of power by an official who knew that the plaintiff would suffer loss as a result, or was recklessly indifferent to that result.

It was not reasonably arguable that in failing to regulate the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), the Bank of England made an unlawful and dishonest decision knowing at the time that it would cause loss to the plaintiffs.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, Lord Justice Auld dissenting, when dismissing an appeal by more than 6,000 plaintiffs against the striking out by Mr Justice Clarke on October 2, 1997 of their proceedings against the Bank of England for alleged misfeasance in public office.

Lord Neill, QC, Mr David Vaughan, QC, Mr Richard Sheldon, QC, Mr Robin Dicker and Mr Dominic Dowley for the plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Stadlen, QC, Mr Paul Lasok, QC, Mr Mark Phillips, Mr Bankim Thanki, Mr Rhodri Thompson and Mr Ben Valentin for the Bank of England.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST and LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER, in a joint judgment, said that by direction of the judge, three preliminary issues had been tried on the assumption that the facts pleaded were true.

The issues were:

1 Was the defendant capable of being liable to the plaintiffs for the tort of misfeasance in public office?

2 Were the plaintiffs' alleged losses capable of being caused in law by the acts or omission of the defendant?

3 Were the plaintiffs entitled to recover for the tort of misfeasance in public office as existing depositors or potential depositors?

At the end of the preliminary hearings, the judge had concluded that the plaintiffs' claim was bound to fail and struck it out.

The tort of misfeasance in public office had a long history in English law, dating back to the end of the seventeenth century. Early cases mainly concerned electors' claims that they had been maliciously denied the right to vote by returning officers.

In the last 40 years, after a gap of over a century, the tort had re-emerged. The modern cases suggested that the law on misfeasance in public office was not set in stone, and was susceptible of judicial development in the time-honoured tradition of the common law, particularly as it had a potential application in a wide variety of circumstances.

In their Lordships' judgment they should not be unduly prescriptive in defining the ingredients of the tort.

The concept of malice in the old cases was similar to that which figured in the law of defamation, namely where the defendant either did not honestly believe that what he said was true, in the sense that he was either aware that it was not true or indifferent to its truth or falsity, or, even when he positively believed in the truth of what he published, was actuated by some improper or indirect motive.

After an extensive review of the authorities, their Lordships concluded that the tort had developed, like the tort of negligence, by a process which had been partly incremental and partly by more abrupt, and often not fully explained, extensions.

In the days when the tort was virtually confined to disputes over voting rights, the simple formula of a dishonest abuse of official power damaging the plaintiff was adequate.

In the more recent cases, that simple formula was still apposite where the plaintiff had been deprived of a licence or otherwise subjected to official power in circumstances in which consequent economic loss to the plaintiff was for practical purposes both immediate and inevitable.

Bourgoin SA v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ([1986] QB 716) had led to a rather rigid distinction between two supposed limbs of the tort: targeted malice and other cases.

That was surprising. The supposed distinction might have tended to blur the need to establish deliberate and dishonest abuse of power in every case.

Their Lordships rejected the submission that the need to prove a guilty state of mind on the part of an official body was out of date and unjustifiable.

European Union law did not help the plaintiffs.

Lord Justice Auld delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Freshfields.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Time limit disapplied by employer's delay

Levez v T.H. Jennings (Harlow Pools) Ltd

Case C-326/96

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President, and Judges J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, H. Ragnemalm, R. Schintgen and K. M. Ioannou

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion May 12)

[Judgment December 1]

It was contrary to Community law for national legislation to impose a time limit on the bringing by an employee of a claim to arrears of remuneration or damages for breach of the principle of equal pay, where the delay in bringing the claim was attributable to a deliberate misrepresentation by the employer as to the remuneration for like work paid to persons of the opposite sex.

That was so even where another remedy was available, if that remedy entailed procedural rules or conditions less favourable that those applicable to similar domestic actions.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

In February 1991 Mrs B. S. Levez was employed as the manager of a betting shop owned by T. H. Jennings (Harlow Pools) Ltd, at a salary of £10,000 a year.

When in December 1991 she was appointed the manager of another betting shop, replacing a man who had previously done the same work on the same contractual terms for a salary of £11,400, Mrs Bevez's pay was raised to £10,800, which Jennings falsely told her had been the salary paid to her predecessor.

It was only on leaving her employment with Jennings in March 1993 that Mrs Levez discovered that until April 1992, when her pay had risen to £11,400, she had been paid less than her male predecessor.

On September 17, 1993 she brought proceedings before an industrial tribunal under the Equal Pay Act 1970, claiming entitlement to a salary of £11,400 with effect from February 1991 and the payment of the corresponding salary arrears.

It was objected that although under section 1(f) of the 1970 Act, any contract under which a woman was employed was deemed to contain an equality clause, section 2(5) provided that a woman was not entitled, in proceedings brought in respect of a failure to comply with an equality clause, to be awarded any payment by way of arrears of remuneration or damages in respect of a time earlier than two years before the date on which the proceedings were instituted.

Accordingly, it was argued, the tribunal had no power to award arrears of remuneration in respect of the period before September 17, 1991.

In appeal proceedings, the appeal tribunal referred questions relating to Community law.

Article 2 of Council Directive 75/117/EEC of February 10, 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (OJ 1975 L45, p19) provides:

"Member states shall introduce into their national legal systems such measures as are necessary to enable all employees who consider themselves wronged by failure to apply the principle of equal pay to pursue their claims by judicial process after possible recourse to other competent authorities."

Article 6 provides:

"Member states shall, in accordance with their national circumstances and legal systems, take the measures necessary to ensure that the principle of equal pay is applied. They shall see that effective means are available to take care that this principle is observed."

In its judgment the Court of Justice held:

According to established case law, in the absence of Community rules governing the matter, it was for the domestic legal system of each member state to designate the courts and tribunals having jurisdiction and to lay down the detailed procedural rules governing actions for safeguarding rights which individuals derived from Community law, provided, however, that such rules were not less favourable than those governing similar domestic actions, the principle of equivalence, and did not render virtually impossible or excessively difficult the exercise of rights conferred by Community law, the principle of effectiveness.

The Court of Justice had thus recognised that it was compatible with Community law for national rules to prescribe, in the interests of legal certainty, reasonable limitation periods for bringing proceedings.

Consequently, a national rule under which entitlement to arrears of remuneration was restricted to the two years preceding the date on which the proceedings were instituted was not in itself open to criticism.

However, in the present case it was clear that, because of the inaccurate, or indeed, deliberately misleading, information provided by the employer as to the pay of the male predecessor, Mrs Levez was in no position to discover the extent of the discrimination against her until April 1993.

To allow an employer to rely on a rule such as that in issue in such a situation would enable him to deprive the employee of the means provided for by Directive 75/117 of enforcing the principle of equal pay before the courts, and would be manifestly incompatible with the principle of effectiveness.

The ultimate effect of the rule would be to facilitate the breach of Community law by an employer whose deceit caused the employee's delay in bringing proceedings for enforcement of the principle of equal pay.

That would be an end of the matter had not the United Kingdom Government stated that, although the 1970 Act did not empower industrial tribunals to extend the period referred to in section 2(5), Mrs Levez could, in proceedings before the county court, and relying both on the Act and on the tort of deceit, successfully have claimed full compensation for the damage suffered on account of the fact that her employer's deceit had prevented her from bringing a claim under the Act.

In view of the explanations given by the United Kingdom Government, it was to be held that, where an employee could rely on the rights of equal pay derived from article 119 of the EC Treaty and Directive 75/117 before another court, the rule at issue did not compromise the principle of effectiveness.

As to the principle of equivalence, that required that the rule at issue be applied without distinction, whether the infringement alleged was of Community law or national law, where the purpose and cause of action were similar.

However, that principle did not require member states to extend their most favourable rules to all actions brought in the field of employment law.

To determine whether the principle of equivalence had been complied with in the present case, the national court, which alone had direct knowledge of the procedural rules governing actions in the field of employment law, would have to consider both the purpose and the essential characteristics of allegedly similar domestic actions.

Whenever it fell to be determined whether a procedural rule of national law was less favourable than those governing similar domestic actions, the national court had to take into account the role played by that provision in the procedure as a whole and the operation and any special features of that procedure before the different national courts.

The 1970 Act was the domestic legislation which gave effect to the Community principle of non-discrimination on the ground of sex in relation to pay, pursuant to article 119 of the Treaty and the directive.

Accordingly, the fact that the same procedural rule, the limitation period laid down by section 2(5) of the Act, applied to two comparable claims, one relying on a right conferred by Community law, the other on a right acquired under domestic law, was not enough to ensure compliance with the principle of equivalence, as the United Kingdom Government maintained, since one and the same form of action was involved.

The Act therefore could not provide an appropriate ground of comparison against which to measure compliance with the principle of equivalence.

However, it was also suggested that claims similar to those based on the Act could include those linked to breach of a contract of employment, discrimination in terms of pay on the grounds of race, unlawful deductions from wages, and sex discrimination in matters other than pay.

If it transpired, on the basis of the principles set out above, that a claim under the Act brought before the county court was similar to one or more of those forms of action, it would remain for the national court to determine whether the claim under the Act was governed by procedural rules or other requirements which were less favourable.

It would be appropriate to consider whether, in order fully to assert rights conferred by Community law before the county court, an employee in circumstances such as those of Mrs Levez would incur additional costs and delay by comparison with a claimant who, because he was relying on what might be regarded as a similar right under domestic law, could bring an action before the industrial tribunal, which was simpler and, in principle, less costly.

Also of relevance was the fact, mentioned by the appeal tribunal, that the rule at issue applied solely to claims for equal pay without discrimination on grounds of sex, whereas claims based on "similar" rights under domestic law were not limited by the operation of such a rule, which meant that such rights might be adequately protected by actions brought before industrial tribunals.

On those grounds the Court of Justice ruled:

1 Community law precluded the application of a rule of national law which limited an employee's entitlement to arrears of remuneration or damages for breach of the principle of equal pay to a period of two years prior to the date on which the proceedings were instituted, there being no possibility of extending that period, where the delay in bringing a claim was attributable to the fact that the employer deliberately misrepresented to the employee the level of remuneration received by persons of the opposite sex performing like work.

2 Community law precluded the application of a rule of national law which limited an employee's entitlement to arrears of remuneration or damages for breach of the principle of equal pay to a period of two years prior to the date on which the proceedings were instituted, even when another remedy was available, if the latter was likely to entail procedural rules or other conditions which were less favourable than those applicable to similar domestic actions. It was for the national court to determine whether that was the case.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Trust property administered by the Special Trustees for the University College Hospital Scheme including the appointment of Trustees
Reference: DC779468NHS
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at 2nd Floor, 140 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2BX, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ quoting the reference above.
Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

In the Estate of Barbara Sarah Price Deceased
WE, B.E. Bate & Company of Shell Buildings, Mark Mill Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands, as Solicitors acting for the Personal Representative in the Estate of the above named Deceased HEREBY GIVE NOTICE to Creditors that all claims should be notified to us against this Estate within the next two months, after which period the Estate will be distributed.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHEF COOK AND LESTER LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given that I, S D Swaden, FCA was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 3rd December 1998.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 14th January 1999 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, S.D. Swaden, FCA, of Leonard Curtis, One Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8LE the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 3rd December 1998
S.D. SWADEN FCA, Liquidator

In the Matter of London Maintenance Services Limited
And in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I Melvyn Julian Carter of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5NU, give notice that on 4th December 1998 I was appointed Liquidator of London Maintenance Services Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 30 April 1999 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Melvyn Julian Carter of Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5NU, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 4 December, 1998
Melvyn Julian Carter
Liquidator

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
DEFORMED RUBBERS SERVICES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of The Norton Practice 1 Wesley Gate, 70 Queens Road, Reading RG1 4AP on 18 December 1998 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the above-named company may be inspected at the offices The Norton Practice, 1 Wesley Gate, 70 Queens Road, Reading RG1 4AP between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm on 16 & 17 December 1998.
For the purposes of voting a statement of claim and any proxy intended for use at the meeting must be lodged with the company at its registered office, The Norton Practice, 1 Wesley Gate, 70 Queens Road, Reading RG1 4AP not later than 12 noon on 17 December 1998.
Dated: 7 December 1998
K L Beasley
Director

NO. 006836 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF SHEDAR PLC
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 27 November 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £18,200,000 to £18,000,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on 13 January 1999.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requesting the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 10th day of December 1998
Eversheds, Cloth Hall Court, Infirmary Street, Leeds, LS1 2JB
(Ref: CSH.A.TEMX Tel: 0113 2430391)
Solicitors for the above mentioned Company

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
C J DAINCEY LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP AND LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: 81 St George's Road, Brighton, BN2 1EF
Company Number 1968657
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 25 November 1998 James Robert Drummond Smith was appointed liquidator of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up).
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference:- PER/PER/.
Deloitte & Touche
PO Box 810
Stonecutter Court
1 Stonecutter Street
London EC4A 4TR

ROBERT GREIG LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ROGER WILLIAM COOK AND MALCOLM ELLIS COOK of MOORE STEPHENS BOOTH WHITE, 1 SNOW HILL, LONDON EC1A 2EN, were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on 30th November 1998.
Creditors are required, on or before, 1st February 1999 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the Liquidators and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 30th day of November 1998
MR ROGER W COOK, Joint Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CAR SUPERMARKETS (MANCHESTER) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 3557823
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of Car Supermarkets (Manchester) Limited held at 10.30 am on 21 December 1998 at the offices of Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, 101 Barbirolli Square, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3PW. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a creditors' committee.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to S A Pearson at PricewaterhouseCoopers, 101 Barbirolli Square, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3PW, by no later than twelve noon on Friday 18 December 1998, together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 2.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
A copy of the report to creditors, prepared in accordance with Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be available upon request from this office.
Dated this fourth day of December 1998
S A Pearson
Joint administrative receiver

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
BARBARA SARAH PRICE DECEASED late of 24 Valley Road, Halesowen West Midlands who died on the 7th November 1998
WE, B.E. Bate & Company of Shell Buildings, Mark Mill Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands, would be glad to hear from any kin with regard to the above named Deceased's Estate within three months of this date, after which period the Estate will be distributed.
COWLING - Gloconda Francesca D'amato, sister of Linda Eugenie Redento Bowen nee D'amato. Kin of the above are requested to contact Bembers, Solicitors, Enf AD. 7 The Drive, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3JB in writing.

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upset to talk after the hearing: they tried to hammer a stake [illegible]



DANCE

Married, and nuts for Tchaikovsky

PAGE 39

THE TIMES ARTS

RECORDS



Lancashire lass wakes to new dawn

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale welcomes the return of Manchester's Royal Exchange where it left off



DONALD COOPER

Mancunian manners: Ewan Hooper and Sue Johnston in Stanley Houghton's Edwardian comedy, *Hindle Wakes*

When the IRA blew the centre of Manchester apart, the play at the stricken Royal Exchange was **Hindle Wakes**; and I cannot imagine a better choice for the theatre's reopening. That is not just because its rerun is tantamount to a dogged Mancunian "as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted". It is because Stanley Houghton's comedy is as much a celebration of Lancashire resilience and the spirit of survival as the rebuilt cotton exchange itself.

That vast edifice is more gorgeous than it was before the bomb, and more welcoming than it surely was when hard-headed men padded beneath its vaulty domes and towering columns making and losing fortunes. Apart from a stage hoist, which raised a room complete with inhabitant to an exit high in the flies, I did not observe great differences in the theatre-in-the-round that perches inside. It is still a splendidly odd, intimate mix of steel plates, tubes and stairways, like a space pod time-warped from the galaxy Andromeda. But to stroll around the warmly lit pinks, golds and reds that enclose it is to give your eyes and heart the sort of uplift that dear old, drear old Manchester seldom offered in the past.

"Who seek to find eternal treasure must use no guile in weight and measure" are the words running round the central dome; and the cotton merchants' motto has not been forgotten by Helena Kaut-Howson, who directs *Hindle Wakes*. You know her production will have the necessary candour, avoirdupois and discipline from the moment Claire Rushbrook's robust Fanny Hawthorne bursts into the meagre room where her parents sit huddled and worried. They have cause to believe that when she was allegedly enjoying her wakes week in Blackpool, she was elsewhere: and they soon deduce she was in Wales with Alan Jeffcote, son of her father's old workmate and, thanks to the vicissitudes of fate, heir to what is now the greatest fortune in prosperous Hindle.

What to do? Well, the play was set and staged in 1911, so the answer is obvious. Alan must break his engagement to the daughter of another tycoon and do the decent thing by wedding Fanny. His father thinks so, as do Fanny's parents. Alan's fiancée and even Alan himself. What made the play modern in the Edwardian age, and still gives it a satisfying frisson, is that we too are lured into believing the marriage inevitable, only to be betrayed by Houghton. To general amazement, Fanny withholds her consent. Alan was her little fling. He hasn't the toughness she expects of a husband. She would rather wear her shawl and ply her trade, an independent Lancashire millgirl to the end.

Yes, Houghton's proto-feminism, his attack on sexual double standards, verges on the didactic. Yes, there are occasional false notes as he prepares for his denouement. But that denouement does ring, does stir, even today. Again, yes, there are cavils to be made about the staging. Aren't the toytown mills running round the theatre balcony, their chimneys exuding smoke, a bit cute? Yet Anna Keaveney, Ewan Hooper and the rest of the cast have the wholeheartedness to make you believe in both the elderly prejudice and the youthful bloody-mindedness on show — and agree that the so-called Manchester School of Drama, which flourished in the years before the First World War, found its masterpiece in *Hindle Wakes*.

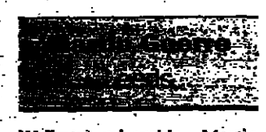
It is hard to dislike a play in which an indignant young man swipes at a murderous lout with a tree trunk yelling, "It's OK, I'm a doctor", and sad to feel iffy about the piece chosen to open the small studio theatre in the Exchange where the Victorian loo once stood. But I never fully believed in Kevin Hood's **So Special**, which starts with two wildish girls preparing to give birth, and, to the accompaniment of not-too-well motivated behaviour both by the medico and by a putative father, shows their very different attitudes to their offspring. Scattered adolescents, rootless lives, unpredictable violence: the ingredients of our contemporary Theatre of Urban Ennui are there, but not the hot, tasty dish itself.

Third time plucky

In the programme Cameron Mackintosh says, "Little did I think that I would be fighting this *guerre* for so long." And quite frankly, after three face-lifts, two theatres and 20 months of indifferent box office, few of us cared. But occasionally miracles happen and hats must be eaten.

Mackintosh has shed pounds (millions of them), half the company and most of the original songs to change the dreary, tabloid spectacle that opened at London's Prince Edward into a fierce musical animal. Fatuous sentiment has been replaced by lean aggression. The motives of this 16th-century legend have been hammered into shape. And the implausible romance of the imposter Arnaud, who turns up after seven years in a tiny French village pretending to be his friend Martin, has been turned into a tragic act of self-sacrifice.

What makes it suddenly so plausible is Boublil and Schonberg's flashback to Martin's marriage to Bertrande. Here we not only see Stephen



Weller's miserable Martin forced into a marriage he does not want, but also the seeds of the religious wars that are to tear the country apart. It is prickly, uncompromising, and above all, angry stuff. The harshness of company songs such as *God's Anger* and even the title tune, *I'm Martin Guerre*, will make coach parties gulp. Conall Morrison, the new director, and choreographer David Bolger, do a magnificent job playing sanctimonious choruses off against the dark riptides. Artigat really is a horrific medieval hellhole. Gareth Snook's charismatic priest spooks his congregation in bigoted numbers such as *The Revelation*. But it is the brute passion revealed in the scathing lyrics and operatic arrangements that is the making of *Martin Guerre* the Third.

However, it takes Joanna Riding's Bertrande to turn a Penny Dreadful into gold. With a voice as sweet as a harp, she single-handedly unlocks the musical's emotional heart with *How Many Tears*. It is an extraordinary performance of understatement and pain. No less convincing is Matthew Cammelle's cello-timbred chevalier Arnaud, who bares his compromised soul in *Don't*. These are star performances in one of the great musical turnarounds of the past 15 years. Maybe this West Yorkshire Playhouse experiment really does bode the future of the musical.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Wanting his pound of flesh: Philip Voss as a superbly tragic Shylock prepares to assault Julian Curry's Antonio

Pitiless play with a human heart

The Merchant of Venice, Barbican

A year to the week after its Stratford premiere, Gregory Doran's RSC production roars in to the Barbican, with its young Venetian blades baying for Jews' blood. Even when there is not a gaberdine in view Scott Handy's Bassanio finds it almost impossible to stand still. This way and that he goes, soon infecting Portia with his giddy spells, calmed at last only by the display of caskets on their elegant plinths.

The caskets are brought in by three maidens amusingly costumed in gold lamé, silver lamé and, well, lead lamé. Nerissa being one of these, attractively spoken by a husky-voiced Sian Reeves.

Doran returns the play to an older tradition in which Shylock is the hated alien, poisoning the moral purity of Venetian finance by charging interest on loans, and therefore a fitting target for verbal and physical abuse. Lorenzo, commending the civilising effect of sweet music, was not to know that the commandants of death camps enjoyed Mozart. But we know this, and the Jew-baiting scenes cannot be dismissed from our minds, as Shakespeare dismisses them from his, in the merry japes that wrap up the play.

Doran resists following those directors who have found ways to criticise the Venetian Christians. The young bloods are vile: Portia complacently privileged and as merciless in her interpretation of the law as Shylock has misguidedly been in his. Helen Schlesinger's Portia breaks the lines in an unnatural manner that nonetheless suggests thoughts bursting uncontrolled from her mind. But Doran does not follow the older pattern of a decorous heroine, and the scene where she and Bassanio play tag around each other looks ridiculous.

The homoerotic bond between Bassanio and Antonio is only half-heartedly suggested when Julian Curry shrinks into himself at the young man's pressing touch. It is also hard to recognise in this tight-lipped figure the paragon of virtue so praised by other characters.

The wet, black stones of the Venice conjured up by Robert Jones's design recall Eliot's notorious lines "The rats are underneath the piles/The jew is underneath the lot." Philip Voss's Jew walks with grave dignity in this dank city until his happiness vanishes with his daughter's treachery — a heart-stirring scene. His voice, measured, even caressing, discloses the shifting moods of thought, most subtly when he learns of Antonio's missing galleons and, three times saying, "Let him look to his bond," allows us to sense the dream of revenge take body in his heart. His is a great tragic performance in a very troublesome play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

From hear to eternity

RECORDS: Clive Davis surveys some monster Sinatra anthologies, and other jazz and blues box sets

When news of Frank Sinatra's death broke, observes the columnist Pete Hamill in a new book, it felt as if a thousand people had left the room. Hamill, a hardbitten New York journalist who knew the singer reasonably well, gives his short biography — just published in America — a simple title: *Why Sinatra Matters*.

Why does he matter? Given that he had not made a first-class album in years, and had stirred up headlines for reasons far removed from his music, Sinatra must seem a remote name to anyone under, say, 30. Plenty of rockers, from Bono to Springsteen, turned out to celebrate his 80th birthday in 1995, yet to many of their fans Sinatra is probably little more than a mythical figure you can sometimes hear crooning *My Way* on Radio 2.

Fortunately, the reissue industry has its handsomely packaged memorials on hand. The 20 CDs that make up **The Complete Reprise Studio Recordings**, for instance, make absorbing listening, though not always for good reasons. This is the saloon singer in his post-Capitol pomp, a star who had survived Elvis and who now had to contend with the Beatles and the generation gap that they embodied. Across almost three decades, we find the self-styled Chairman of the Board fighting a rearguard action, responding to changes far below on the cultural shopfloor rather than shaping events himself, as he had done in the early Fifties.

Listening to the discs in sequence you appreciate the sense of artistic bewilderment, akin to exhaustion, that prompted his decision to retire in 1970. You can take your pick from the low points: for me, it comes in the dismal attempt to turn Simon and Garfunkel's *Mrs Robinson* into a "ring-a-ding-ding" swinger.

The records that followed his comeback followed a similarly erratic course. Pick your way through the triple-disc *Trilogy* (1980) and you hear majestic versions of old material and the new standard-to-be *New York, New York* set alongside Gordon Jenkins's staggeringly banal slab of intergalactic fortune-telling ("Pluto is a rotten place . . .").

With the emphasis on studio recordings there is obviously no space for the ebullient live album at The Sands casino — or the even more satisfying small-group date at the Paris Lido. But there are other treasures to savour, from the stark piano-only version of *Send In the Clowns* to the gripping interweaving of *The Gal That Got Away* and *It Never Entered My Mind*, made in 1981 with Nelson Riddle, the finest of all Sinatra's arrangers.

At this stage there is no need, surely, to have to recommend the other monster box, **The Capitol Years**. Twenty-one discs spanning 1953 to 1960 document an extraordinarily creative burst of activity. *Songs For Swingin' Lovers* and *In The Wee Small Hours* are two summits, but it is worth a detour to hear *Close To You*, a much more obscure ballads set combining the talents of Riddle, violinist Felix Slatkin and his Hollywood String Quartet.

You cannot help noticing that the music on these records sounds less dated than most of the Reprise work. A shame the collection's booklet — written for the original LP issue — has so little to impart.

On the jazz front, the biggest packages of the season include the eight-CD *Complete Impulse! Studio Recordings of John Coltrane*. But first prize for deluxe gift-wrapping goes to the 60th anniversary banquet **The Blue Note Years**, which comes complete with an album of moody black and white photographs. Francis Wolff's label is now synonymous with hard bop, yet the 14 discs charting its history are a reminder that Wolff made his name with old-school players such as Sidney Bechet and Meade "Lux Lewis".

The avant-garde gets reasonable treatment too, with space allotted to Andrew Hill, Sam Rivers, Cecil Taylor and Eric Dolphy, to name a few. Soul-jazz is amply covered as well.

After long years of neglect, Blue Note came back from the dead in the mid-Eighties. You can't help feeling some sympathy for the company's current signings, forever dogged by ancestral memories of Horace Silver and Art Blakey. The pantheon casts a long shadow.

But then the same problem faces any young jazz musician on any label. Pianist Jacky Terrasson's languorous version of *I Love Paris* is actually as engaging as anything from the golden era, and a roster which also boasts Benny Green, Cassandra Wilson and Joe Lovano is far from moribund.

The compulsory blues purchase this season is Columbia's three-volume tribute to the multi-textured artistry of Taj Mahal. In spite of its insubstantial liner notes, **In Progress & In Motion, 1965-98** has all the vibrancy and restlessness of one of the singer's shows, abruptly shifting from straight revivalist material to the reggae beat of *Johnny Too Bad* (a number reflecting Mahal's own Caribbean ancestry) and echoes of Louis Jordan's jump bands. Eager to rescue the blues from neglect, we sometimes risk embalming it; Mahal delivers the flesh and blood.



Frank Sinatra during the Capitol years, when he probably produced his most exuberant and durable recordings

Steam power

POP

Vapour Brighton

If one sound dominated dance floors during 1998, it was big beat. The sample-heavy, funk-filled fusion of hip-hop and friendly techno spread from its origins in the South East of England to clubs across the country. It went on to storm the pop charts. After a Fatboy Slim remix took Cornershop to No 1, even artists as mainstream as Madonna and Meat Loaf asked for the treatment.

On Monday evening the dance music event Vapour acknowledged the success of big beat by staging its final show of the year at Brighton's Big Beat Boutique, the club most closely associated with the sound. Since setting out on a debut British tour six months ago, Vapour's admirable aim has been to establish live band performances as an integral part of clubland. In association with all of Britain's leading independent dance labels, Vapour has hosted gigs by the likes of the Propellerheads, Monkey Mafia and Aphex Twin in venues usually played only by DJs.

The sold-out Brighton show began with a set from Curtis Mantronik, a New Yorker whose 1980s group Mantronix is acknowledged as a major influence on big beat. However, it was with the Wiseguys that the gig got into gear. Backed by a live drummer and the DJ skills of songwriter Touche, the group's two energetic frontmen rapped their way through a series of infectious songs from the recent album, *The Antidote*.

Next on stage were the locally based Lo-Fidelity Allstars. Despite lacking a lead singer through illness, the shambolic collective of DJs and musicians crafted their mix of electro, disco and effects-laden vocal samples into an electric performance. By the time headliner Fatboy Slim — alias former Housemartin Norman Cook — appeared to round off the evening with a DJ set, the 1,600-strong crowd had worked itself into a frenzy. Summer anthem *The Rockafeller Skank* was slowed down and spliced with the Rolling Stones' *(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction*, while recent hit *Gangster Tripping* incited mass pogoing.

With plans to expand into Europe next year, Vapour may well prove to be one of the dance-music industry's most significant success stories of 1998.

LISA VERRICO

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown falls under the old-fashioned spell of the dashing heroes and heroine in *The Mask of Zorro*

Buckle your swash for a wild ride

The Mask of Zorro
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 137 mins
Entertaining, full-blooded swashbuckler

The Parent Trap
Odeon West End
U, 129 mins
Escapist family comedy

The Boys
Metro, 18, 86 mins
Tough Australian drama

Playing God
Warner West End
18, 93 mins
David Duchovny reaches beyond The X-Files

The Texas Chain Saw Massacre
ABC Shaftesbury Ave
18, 83 mins
Return of the notorious movie nightmare



There may be no mistletoe or Santa Claus in sight, but *The Mask of Zorro*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Antonio Banderas, could well be this year's best Christmas treat

Can that really be Anthony Hopkins in cloak and mask, leaping around, lassoing a flagpole with his whip and saving peasants from a firing squad? There he is again in the opening minutes, jumping straight from a balcony to his horse below. For all his gifts, nobody had previously considered Hopkins the new Douglas Fairbanks.

But then **The Mask of Zorro** defies expectations in so many ways. In an era when Hollywood repackages its past with smart-aleck dialogue and excessive blood, *Zorro* treats the swashbuckler genre with a winning combination of gusto and respect. Nobody is taking the mickey. Nobody is trying to be hip. And although a 1990s sensibility constantly peeps through ("Excuse me?" says heroine Catherine Zeta Jones in the petulant tones of the true modern miss), the habits and ingredients of old-fashioned entertainment loom large. Characters with depth. Varied pacing. Dashing swordplay and feisty romance. Genuine humour, not cold mockery.

The Zorro story started in 1919, when a pulp fiction writer, Johnston McCulley, wrote a novel called *The Curse of Capistrano*. The next year, Fairbanks took hold of the central character, a champion of the oppressed in old California, part Robin Hood, part Scarlet Pimpernel. His movie was called *The Mark of Zorro*, after the Z mark Zorro carved on opponents' faces. Since then film history has been littered with tales of Zorro's masks, marks, black legions and whips.

This new adventure, directed by Martin Campbell for Steven Spielberg's company Amblin Entertainment, presents another variation. After all that leaping, Zorro is locked in jail by the Spanish governor of California, who also kills his wife, snatches his young daughter and brings her up as his own. We jump 20 years to 1841, when Zorro escapes, and finds someone young to take on his mission of revenge. Enter Antonio Banderas, so full of sex appeal he makes the screen sizzle, cast as a wayward bandit groomed to be Zorro Two. Now the film really gets moving, darting between comedy, romance with Don Diego's daughter (Jones in her first major Hollywood role) and swashbuckling galore with the governor's cohorts.

There is some playing to the gallery. In one scene, Banderas's sword conveniently slices off most of Jones's clothes. The director, too, can plump for the obvious. Campbell, late of the Bond film *GoldenEye*, tends to hurl the action in our faces, and not let images breathe. But irritants fade next to the film's great success in grounding the swash and buckle in interesting characters and a story that builds. Hopkins makes no pretence at a Spanish accent, but still convinces, helped no doubt by some of the 40 stunt men. Banderas is charming, and Jones more than a cardboard beauty. The baddies, led by Stuart Wilson, have substance too. There may be no mistletoe or Santa in sight, but *The Mask of Zorro* could well be this year's best Christmas treat.

Younger audiences might prefer **The Parent Trap**, Disney's remake of its Hayley Mills vehicle of 1961 about twin sisters, long separated, eager to bring their divorced parents together. But they will need to stop fidgeting: the running time of 129 minutes (the exact length of the original film) is far too generous for the material on offer. They also need nerves to surmount a shot of an ear being pierced, home-kit fashion, at summer camp. Even adults at the press show were squirming.

We were also having a yawn and a laugh (sometimes legitimately, sometimes at the film's expense). Nancy Meyers and Charles Shyer, the film's writer-producer-director team, are practised specialists in Hollywood gloss (remember *Baby Boom*, or the remake of *Father of the Bride*?) But they outdo themselves with Hallie and Annie, identical twins spiritedly played by Lindsay Lohan, a freckled graduate of TV commercials. Hallie lives in a mock Tuscan villa in the Napa Valley, where her dad Dennis Quaid runs a prosperous vineyard. Annie prefers leafy Kensington, where mum Natasha Richardson designs posh wedding outfits and drawls down the phone, "Oh hi, how's the photoshoot going?"

Still, how much reality should anyone expect in a film where the lead performer appears twice in the same shot? In all the scenes between Hallie and Annie, the special effects seams never show. And for anyone aged ten or so, these girls' antics will be the main draw. At camp they get into frightful mischief; back home, they try swapping identities, then reunite to sabotage Quaid's forthcoming wedding and restore the status quo. As family fare goes, *The Parent Trap* is moderately funny and engagingly performed. If only it didn't leave adults with spare time to query its old-fashioned attitudes, or groan at the sight of that bicycling gent in a bowler hat, gliding through a litter-free London.

But enough of the U certificate life. Give me the rough stuff. Give me **The Boys**. The credit sequence for this Australian film already suggests grim times ahead: close-ups single out a dingy light switch, a sink plughole, an air conditioner. Even before the boys appear we feel hemmed in, doomed to violence. And then we meet Brett, home from prison after a little assault and battery at the Fife and Drum Drive-In Bottle Shop. He wants to pick up the pieces, he says, and find "peace and serenity with my brothers", not to mention his girlfriend Michelle (Toni Colette, very good). But you can't keep a psychopath down, especially one tanked up on drink and drugs. So the violence erupts, fortunately offscreen, although its shadow is frightening enough.

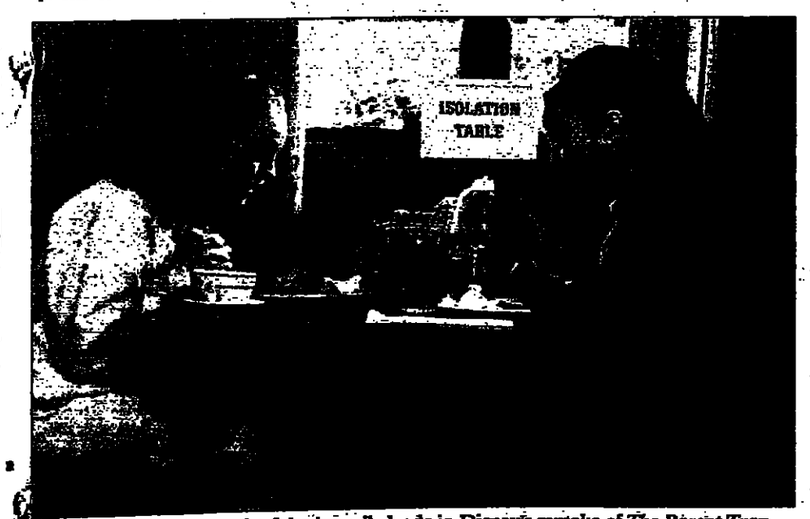
At a glance, there might not seem to be much of value here. But a plain description barely suggests the intensity cast and director create, and the wrenching agonies of humans trapped by their weaknesses. The material originated onstage, along with some fine performances: David Wenham's reckless Brett; Lynette Curran's mother, inadequacy in a turquoise sweater. There is nothing theatrical, though, in the camera's poking into dingy corners, or the editing's cut and thrust. From a controversial play by Gordon Graham, a new director, Rowan Woods, has created powerful, uncomfortable and unforgettable cinema.

Playing God features more rough stuff. A bullet is removed from a bleeding chest with a water bottle, a tube and a wire hanger. And the miracle doctor? He's David Duchovny, the *X-Files* zombie, who was taking his first steps outside the TV series when he made this movie last year. The part actually suits him. As Eugene Sands, a discredited doctor scraping the barrel in Los Angeles, he can look introspective, take off his shirt, and be slightly heroic: a tarnished angel in a godless world.

That DIY surgery, performed in a club, brings him to the attention of counterfeiter and hustler Timothy Hutton, who wants him as his in-house surgeon, extracting bullets on demand. The work is disturbing, but well-paid. And Sands's progress does not end there: "From respected surgeon to Mob doctor to FBI snitch," he muses in the voice-over commentary, one of numerous devices designed to push the film into the artistic, rather than commercial, sphere.

Alas, it never quite makes the grade. You can almost hear British director Andy Wilson straining to make a good impression; but to do this he would need a script far more controlled than the lurching mess penned by Mark Haskell Smith. By the time Duchovny is on the run with the girl, a tart little number with fulsome lips, you wish all the film's characters, clichés and half-baked ambitions would just curl up in a corner and die.

Some might wish the same fate on **The Texas Chain Saw Massacre**, the notorious horror film of 1974 in which young travellers in rural Texas stumble into a loony family with a taste for human meat. At the time the title alone was enough to get mouths frothing; but compared to today's festivals of gore, the most remarkable aspect of Tobe Hooper's first feature is its mildness. For all the chain saws, meathooks and sledgehammers, this is almost a film fit for Aunt Edna.



Lindsay Lohan as both of the juvenile leads in Disney's remake of *The Parent Trap*

'Jaw-dropping'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

■ THE MASK OF ZORRO
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Not to be missed. The real scene-stealer was the horse!
Carl Clark, 19: The jaw-dropping action scenes come thick and fast.
Charlotte Daley, 19: Girl power has never been better represented. Catherine Zeta Jones really kicks butt.
Alison Juliard, 20: The scenes between Antonio Banderas and Jones are so charged I'm surprised the screen didn't burst into flames.

■ THE PARENT TRAP
Leslie: Do anything but see this movie. It's so sweet you'll need a visit to the dentist.
Carl: Not to my liking. Cute beyond belief.
Charlotte: Dangerously wholesome. I cannot imagine any child wanting to sit through this fluff.
Alison: What a chore. Every minute of this slushy nonsense was cloying.

■ PLAYING GOD
Leslie: Entertaining performances from David Duchovny and Timothy Hutton in this tepid drama.

SNAP VERDICT

Carl: Nothing special. A novel view of the criminal underworld, though.
Charlotte: Bad dialogue but other than that it was an OK way to spend a couple of hours.
Alison: If you can't get in to see anything else, this should not disappoint too much. Duchovny, at any rate, was ace.

The Duvall has all the best lines

■ THE APOSTLE
CIC, 12, 1997
ACTOR Robert Duvall reaches for the stars in this intimate epic, and almost touches them. He directs, writes the screenplay, and plays the title character, a Pentecostal preacher who takes to the road after bashing his wife's lover with a baseball bat. Duvall's performance is masterly. So is the balance the film strikes between pointing out the man's hypocrisy, guile and violent streak, and granting him genuine religious beliefs. Other actors on display include Farrah Fawcett, Miranda Richardson and Billy Bob Thornton, memorable in his role as a redneck determined to bulldoze the preacher's new church. A rental release.

NEW ON VIDEO

■ BLACK FIVE
Academy, E, 1968
ONE usually associates the British Film Institute's Production Board with more intellectually testing fare than a nostalgic salute to steam trains. But be grateful for Paul Barnes's film: by counterpointing images of engines chugging away with the dry observations of Lancashire enginemen facing changing times, the director creates a fetching blend of visual hymn and social document. The chief location is Carnforth, used years earlier in the classic *Brief Encounter*. This is a brief encounter as well, lasting no more than 21 minutes; so bear that in mind.

■ L. A. CONFIDENTIAL
Warner DVD, 18, 1997
THE release in DVD format of this splendid adaptation of James Ellroy's crime thriller luxuriates with extra features: a behind-the-scenes featurette: an interactive map of Los Angeles; details of director Curtis Hanson's photo research; plus those always-handy Portuguese subtitles. Even so, nothing fascinates the viewer more than the film itself, a superbly atmospheric tale set in a town booming in the 1950s with corruption, sleaze and a greedy police force. The well-chosen cast (Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito, Kim Basinger, among many) have a ball with the kind of dialogue people spit rather than say.



Writer, director and lead actor Robert Duvall aims for the stars — and almost reaches them — in *The Apostle*

■ PONETTE
Tartan, PG, 1996
EXTRAORDINARY voyage into a grieving child's mind from French director Jacques Doillon, with an award-winning performance from four-year-old Victoire Thivisol as the girl struggling to cope with the death of her mother in a car crash. It is often harrowing to watch: Doillon's focus on death is unrelenting, and time and again we are drawn to Thivisol's face, with its wondering eyes and forlorn mouth. During filming a psychoanalyst was on the set in case of emotional problems encountered by the young actress. No crisis was reached, and any qualms viewers might feel about possible exploitation should be knocked aside by the film's power and sincerity.

■ SLIDING DOORS
CIC, 15, 1998
OLD-STYLE romantic comedy with a novel twist: the heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, pursues two separate courses through her life in London. In one, after losing her job Paltrow misses her Tube train, gets mugged and arrives home late. In another, she catches the train, sits next to charming John Hannah and returns in time to find boyfriend John Lynch bedding an old lover. Actor Peter Howitt keeps his direction plain. Paltrow is spirited and Hannah pleasant, if too good to be true. The film is pleasant enough too, although it does leave you muttering "So what?". A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

'ENORMOUSLY EXHILARATING AND ENTERTAINING'
John Gross, Sunday Telegraph
WEST SIDE STORY
'AN INDESTRUCTIBLE CLASSIC'
Georgina Brown, Mail on Sunday
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Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON



Tom Conti offers a fresh perspective on the Nativity

THE BARTERED BRIDE: Award-winning director Francesca Zambello renews her partnership with lighting designer Wolfgang Göbbel and choreographer Denni Sayers for the Royal Opera's new production of Smetana's exuberant tale of young love. Bernard Haitink conducts. Sadler's Wells (0171-713 6000). Opens tonight, 7pm. 🔊

PETER PAN: Justin Salinger in the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in the return of Fiona Laird's enjoyable production. Olivier, SE1 (0171-452 3000). Previews from tonight, 7.15pm.

JESUS MY BOY: Tom Conti in John Dowie's short comedy giving Joseph's side of the story. Unlikely to be theologically sound. Apollo (0171-494 5070). Opens tonight, 7pm.

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: Mark Elder conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir in tonight's concert which juxtaposes the composer's music with other Russian works by Glinka, Mussorgsky and Stravinsky. Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). 7.30pm. 🔊

MARGARET NEVE: An exhibition of works by the Wales-based painter demonstrates her preoccupation with the here and hereafter. Her mystical landscapes are on show until Dec 19. Montpelier Sandelson, SW7 (0171-584 0687).

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF: Director Richard Jones brings his unconventional touch to Welsh National Opera's new production of Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel. Imelda Drumm and Linda Kitchen sing the title roles. Wladimir Jurowski conducts. New Theatre (01222 878889). Opens tonight, 7.15pm. 🔊

GLASGOW: The brother and three sisters from Co. Louth, The Corrs, continue to woo the nation with their seductive blend of folk, pop and rock. Clyde Auditorium (0141-287 7777). Tonight, tomorrow. Doors open 7pm.

STRATFORD UPON AVON: William Houston and Jayne Ashbourne take the title roles in Troilus and Cressida: Michael Boyd's production which transfers from the Barbican. Swan (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. In repertoire.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only 🔊 Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

■ *CHICAGO: Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about murder and fickle fame.* Adelphi (0171-344 0055).

☐ THE SNOWMAN: The much-loved Raymond Briggs characters soar in Bill Alexander's joyful production. Peacock, WC2 (0171-863 8222).

☐ THE KING AND I: Whistle a happy tune with Phil Willmott's Steam Factory production of the feelgood Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. BAC (0171-223 2223). 🔊

☐ *LATE NITE CATECHISM: Mariost* Donovan plays the unnerving Sister in her American comedy hit, cowing the audience with old-time Catholicism. Jermyn Street (0171-287 2875)

■ THE MERCHANT OF VENICE: Gregory Doran's production from Stratford, chiefly notable for Philip Voss's superb Shylock. Barbican (0171-638 8891). 🔊

☐ 🔊 ARABIAN NIGHTS: Ali Baba, Sin- bad and lesser known tales adapted and directed by Dominic Cooke. Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

☐ THE SNOW PALACE: Short run for Janet Suzman's production of Pam Gems's remarkable drama about the Polish writer Stanislawa Przybszewka (Kathryn Pogson), obsessed with the French Revolution. Tricycle (0171-328 1000). 🔊

☐ CINDERELLA: Neil Bartlett and the Shockheaded Peter team stage a seriously wonderful version of Angela Carter's panto. Magic provided by Paul Kieve. Lyric (0181-741 8701/2311). 🔊

☐ KAFKA'S DICK: Alan Bennett's anti-biography, with Julia McKenzie, John Gordon-Sinclair and Eric Sykes. Sadly the last production by the Peter Hall Co in its present form. Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

🔊 SHADOWS: Two short plays by Synge (Riders to the Sea, The Shadow of the Glen) and Yeats's Purgatory make up an evening of powerful Irish drama. John Crowley directs. Pit (0171-638 8891).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U): Everyone's favourite talking pig faces the torments of the hostile city. Grotesque, misguided sequel to the hit film. With Magda Szubanski.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG): Perfunctory version of Brian Friel's play about five spinster sisters in 1930s Donegal. With Meryl Streep, Catherine McCormack and Kathy Burke; director, Pat O'Connor.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U): Warm your heart's cockles with Frank Capra's tribute to homely American values, with James Stewart as the doubting do-gooder driven to desperation.

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG): Refined relationship comedy, with a marvellous cast and lip-synched snatches of popular songs. Alain Resnais directs Sabine Azéma, Pierre Arditi and André Dussollier.

RUSH HOUR (15): LA and Hong Kong cops join forces on a kidnap case. Routine fare, enlivened by Asian legend Jackie Chan and motormouth comic Chris Tucker.

TWILIGHT (15): Down-at-heel private eye (Paul Newman) is lured into a murder mystery. Inconsequential plot, but a wonderful cast. With Gene Hackman, Susan Sarandon, James Garner. Director, Robert Benton.

UNDERGROUND (18): Low-budget British movie about a night in the life of a 15 year-old drug dealer. A promising debut for director Paul Spurrier. With Billy Smith, Zoe Smale.

YEAR OF THE HORSE (15): Jim Jarmusch's concert film celebrating the rough, driving rock music of Neil Young and Crazy Horse. For dedicated fans only.

CURRENT

IF ONLY (15): Wayward but endearing comedy fantasy about an actor granted another chance to succeed with his girlfriend. With Douglas Henshall and Lena Headey. Directed by Maria Ripoll.

OUT OF SIGHT (15): Escaped convict George Clooney finds himself falling for the federal marshal (Jennifer Lopez) on his tail. Dazzling, inventive version of Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Steven Soderbergh.

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U): Revival of MGM's delicious comedy about a socialite wedding that comes unstuck. With Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart.

Still lives and relative values

TELEVISION: Richard Cork is moved by an unflinching portrait of a modern family



Lost in the light: Richard Billingham's mother Liz is bathed in a television glow as she plays a video game in *Fishtank*, his bleak profile of his family

Even today, when so many artists are fascinated by the possibilities of video and film, few are given the chance to show their work properly on television. All the more reason, then, to hail the advent of Richard Billingham's *Fishtank*, an Artangel commission to be broadcast on BBC2 on Sunday.

Claustrophobic, unsentimental and focused frankly on even the most distressing aspects of family life in a West Midlands council flat, this 50-minute film is often painful to watch. But I never felt that Billingham, who keeps his camera closely trained on his father Ray, mother Liz and younger brother Jason, was guilty of sensationalising his subjects. *Fishtank* moves through a gamut of emotions, and its exposure of the tensions in his parents' troubled relationship is impelled, above all, by a desire to tell the truth.

It begins mundanely enough. Ray, shot upside-down, looms on the screen as a train rattles past the window. In a distant room, *News at Ten* sounds its signature tune. But apart from muttering "ten o'clock", he shows no sign of wanting to watch the programme. Instead, he puffs on his cigarette while the camera zooms in for a disconcerting close-up of his sad, rheumy eye. Aimless yet observant, he seems uncertain how to fill in the time before sleep.

Ray reminded me here of the similarly motionless old man in Edvard Munch's desolate self-portrait *Between Clock and Bed*. Billingham, who started out as a painter, surely owes a debt to the harrowing emotional intensity of Munch. But *Fishtank* makes no overt reference to the artists admired by its maker. The style adopted here is "video verité", and the camera proves just as adept at defining energy as lassitude.

After Ray's weary stillness, we encounter the adolescent high spirits of Jason. Stripped to the waist and ready for the chase, he stalks a fly with a postcard in each hand. Semi-dancing to the rock music pounding through the room, he feints a blow before delivering the *coup de grâce*. "And he gets him — he scores!" says Jason in mock-football commentator exultation.

His father, marooned in the kitchen, stays silent as he goes about nurturing life rather than killing it. A blur of colour resolves into a fishtank, and Ray lifts the lid to sprinkle food. A cut-out toy figure of a child stands in the bubbling water, smiling at the gaudily striped fish as they swoop, dart and wheel for their nourishment.

As if to draw a parallel between the creatures trapped in the narrow tank and their human owner beyond, the camera now travels slowly over Ray's wizened face, wispy white hair and stubble before coming to rest, startlingly, on a seductive bowl of flowers behind him. He seems equally imprisoned in this high-rise room, its confines accentuated by Billingham's insistence on pressing his lens up against everyone he scrutinises.

We are shown a window at night, its sill lined with dolls in elaborate, fairytale dresses. Instead of straying outside, though, the camera turns in again before coming to rest on his mother. Her fleshy, monumental face is blue with reflected light from the television set, as she manipulates a boisterous video game with a joystick.

But Billingham soon returns us to reverie, and the oppressive feeling that there is nothing to do. Jason, still semi-naked, sprawls on a bed wondering out loud why Björk is so "famous for singing out of tune". Gift-shop Venetian masks hang mockingly on the wall above him as he gazes towards the window and stops talking altogether.

Words, however, become plentiful when Ray and Liz are in belligerent mood. Gulping down mussels with the aid of her fingers, she tells him, "If you want to bugger off from here, you're going the right way about it. The flat's in my name, not anyone else's." The camera stays on a tight close-up of her mouth while she rages, and then wanders wildly between them as they exchange verbal broadsides.

> 'We sense how much joy the family must once have had'

Billingham cuts to a furry toy animal chasing a coloured ball across a fiercely patterned rug. He makes the textures in this cluttered flat almost as eloquent as the people, and implies that the toy's manic movements are as irrational as his parents' behaviour.

But then, quite suddenly, a ceasefire is declared. A pet snake curls across Liz's breasts, and comes to rest in the deep declivity between her chest and tattooed arm. She lets the snake play intimately with her face before kissing it, and the camera lingers on the snake's shadow undulating across a wall. Life seems pleasurable for a moment.

Billingham shows a live fly scuttling triumphantly away from the insect squashed by Jason earlier. Ensconced in her bedroom, Liz applies her make-up, accompanied by the distant sound of trains, shouting kids, a barking dog and a car horn.

Before long, though, the true source of the rancour between wife and husband is revealed. Coughing theatrically to disguise the hiss of a beer-can being opened, Ray takes a defiant swig after grumbling, "Down the [illegible] watch, and bollocks to them all." Watching television, a neighbouring room, is [illegible]boled: "If you are drinking today, I'm not putting up with you like this."

But she cannot control him. We see Ray later, struggling to rise from his armchair, swaying, coughing and then slumping down again with an exhausted, naughty cackle. He plays the part of the mischievous, unrepentant and put-upon child, while she is forced into the stereotype of a scold. They roar at one another, Liz threatening to throw him out, Ray complaining that he had "more freedom in the Forces". Occasionally, the terrible bitterness is interspersed with a farcical attempt at reconciliation. "Give me a kiss for your birthday," says Ray, although he must know that her response will be vituperative. The whole row sounds like a ritual, enacted a thousand times before. But that does not make it less gruelling to see.

Billingham films it all, closing at one point on Ray's veined hands sunk disconsolately between his thighs. Then we see the two of them: Ray in the foreground, his face a bluish, leaden colour, Liz beyond with her head turned away in dejection. The emotional chasm between them seems as unbridgeable as in Sickert's painting *Ennui*, an equally devastating portrayal of a conjugal breakdown. Ray whistles tunelessly as he goes out, then he mutters: "I don't like this kind of living, I don't."

Then, in the most moving sequence of the entire film, Billingham roams through a sequence of family snapshots. Monochrome to begin with, they show a slim young Liz sometimes with a peroxide rinse, grinning with Ray or her two small boys. As the photo-booth pictures change to colour, with backdrops of garish orange curtains, the melancholy deepens.

We sense how much joy the family may once have felt, and Billingham turns away from the album in order to film trees surging in the wind outside. It is the only moment when he goes beyond the flat: and when the camera returns, the mood has shifted from despondency to reconciliation.

Lying on the bed with a bumper sandwich, Liz chats to Ray. He looks stunned beside her, but she rests her head on his chest and burps contentedly. Life seems bearable after all, and Billingham cuts to Jason playing a video game.

While flashing warplanes fire venom at each other, a singer croons, "To know him/ is to love him/just to see him smile/makes my life worthwhile". Jason joins in raucously, and so does Ray. But then he lapses into a sigh. We return at last to the aimless, repetitive yet oddly expectant fish, as they glide on and on through their liquid prison.

● Fishtank *will be shown on BBC2 in the* Tx. *series this Sunday at 10.30pm*

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Dream team back where they belong

DANCE: Allen Robertson meets Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur, Britain's star ballet partnership


GILL ALLEN

Husband and wife at work: after an ill-fated season with Birmingham Royal Ballet, Thomas Edur and Agnes Oaks are back at English National Ballet

Britain's first glimpse of the Estonian husband-and-wife team of Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur just over eight years ago was a golden promise of great things to come. She was fresh, charming, scintillating. He was a thunderbolt with a flawless purity which marked him out as an authentic classicist. Young, barely out of their teens and only recently married, they had been invited to England *immediately after* winning the "Best Couple" prize at the international ballet competition in Jackson, Mississippi.

At the time they knew virtually no English, and had gone to the competition with few expectations. According to Edur, their main objective was not to compete, but to try to gain a perspective of themselves. "It was our first time 'out'; our first time to dance somewhere besides little Estonia. It was to see who you are, where you are in the world." Where they are today is at the head of English National Ballet, the company which gave them their first job eight years ago.

Next Tuesday, when ENB returns to the London Coliseum with *The Nutcracker*, Oaks and Edur will dance the opening-night performance as an idealised fairytale couple, the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. And when *Cinderella* comes to the Coliseum in January Oaks and Edur will again take starring roles.

As they showed during six years as ENB principals, they are ideally suited to the big classics. His talents have ripened to the point where aficionados now declare him to be the perfect ballet prince. Her stage persona, despite extended bouts of inaction due to injury, has grown from sparkling soubrette into radiant leading lady.

Their *Romeo and Juliet* with ENB at the Albert Hall last summer firmly established them as members of that exclusive ballet club, "the perfect partnerships". Many now rank them in a league with Fonteyn and Nureyev, Sibley and Dowell, Kirkland and Baryshnikov. Even so, some speculate that they might be even better if they danced with other partners on a more regular basis. "We work very hard not to be an old married couple on the stage," laughs Oaks. "The thing is we know each other so well and we fit together. We are happier dancing with each other."

> 'We work hard not to be an old married couple on stage, but we're happier dancing together'

"But," Edur says, pointing at Oaks, "once you taste the best, you always want it back. Dancing together is something we cherish."

That doesn't mean it is always smooth sailing between them. "We are both strong people and we have our own views on things," Edur explains. "But, when you fight, and we do, you learn. It makes it interesting, stronger. We try to reduce our egos and care for each other. Rather than 'me, me, me', it's 'us, us, us.'"

They have a pact not to let work dominate their off-hours, but it is clear from talking to them that they are each other's best friend. And that they like to finish each other's sentences. "When we first came here we didn't know any English . . . Class was ten times faster than at home . . . We had to learn three big ballets in a month . . . I think we were a little bit scared . . . Nobody can imagine how big a shock it was to us . . . We stayed quite naïve for a long time."

"Oh, it was awful," concludes Edur. "We were so ashamed at our English."

Because he had rheumatic fever as a child, Edur had thought about becoming a doctor. In fact, it was because of his illness that he was a year late in getting into the ballet school, which is why he and Oaks ended up in the same class. His father left when he was three. He, his mother and elder sister became known locally as "the ballet family" because they went to the theatre so often.

"We knew every step, all the music. We would do performances at home, sometimes dressing up, holding torches up like lights." His first audition, at the age of eight, did not go well. "I wanted to show off myself, to have people look at me and clap." But the school insisted on waiting a year to see if his health would stabilise.

It is because Oaks's mother had also dreamt of dancing that her daughter entered ballet school at the age of ten. "The first year," she recalls, "I cried all the time." That's when Oaks and Edur met, though she is honest enough to admit that it was hardly love at first sight. "I don't remember Tom at all," she giggles. "It was only the first time that we danced together, age 13, that we started to know each other, and it wasn't until we were 16, when we first danced together in *Coppélia*, that we became friends."

Despite the fact that each of them is half Russian, neither felt the lure of the Kirov or the Bolshoi. "No," Edur says. "In Russia it is more important to know how to play the game than to know how to dance. Besides, they have so many dancers that they call the corps de ballet the cemetery of principals."

Neither Oaks nor Edur is ready to be buried. Two years ago, fearing that they might be getting stale, they left English National Ballet and signed on with Birmingham Royal Ballet. Fans expected great things. But it all went wrong. Oaks was severely injured and didn't dance a step the entire season. Edur was hardly more visible.

Looking back, they say they knew almost at once that the move had been a mistake, though they are quick to admit that the fault was as much theirs as anyone else's. "Different values, different attitudes. It wasn't for us the right place to be," says Edur. So, after departing the Midlands, they decided to spend a year as freelance artists. Now, after their break, they are back with ENB as resident guest artists.

The future will find them spending about nine months a year with ENB, but leaves them free to dance elsewhere when scheduling permits. "This is our home now," explains Edur. But both agree that the temporary separation from ENB was a positive move which helped them to grow and develop. "It was a very good step. We learnt so much," says Oaks.

"Sometimes," adds Edur, "it is very difficult to see what you have unless you open the door and go outside to see what is there. And, you know, I am still discovering myself. That's why we keep on dancing."

● The Nutcracker *opens at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300) on Dec 15; Cinderella opens on Jan 11*

Classical CDs of the year

ORCHESTRAL

THE DISC that has generated most column inches this year is undoubtedly **Anthony Payne's** "elaboration" of the sketches of Elgar's Third Symphony (NMC D053, £13.99). It is also one of the discs that has given me the greatest pleasure, partly because of the insight it gives us into Elgar's late style, and partly because of the sheer skill with which Payne completed his task. The **BBC Symphony Orchestra** under **Andrew Davis** capture both the nobility and the essential vulnerability of the music.

No less revelatory was the set of Schumann symphonies from **John Eliot Gardiner** and his **Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique** (Archiv 457 591-2, £46.49). Subtle phrasing, delicate shadings and glowing sonorities banish for ever the turgid, ill-conceived readings of the past.

Two rival sets of Handel's Concerti Grossi Op 6 were completed this year, one from Collegium Musicum 90 on Chandos, the other from a newly invigorated **Academy of Ancient Music** under **Andrew Manze** on Harmonia Mundi (HMU 907228.29, £29.99). The latter won my vote by a whisker for its judicious tempos, superior propulsion and shape, as well as a dash of exhibitionism.

Finally, more stunning playing from the youthful **New World Symphony** under **Michael Tilson Thomas** in *New World Jazz* (RCA 09026 68798 2, £14.99). The programme ranges from John Adams, through Milhaud and Stravinsky, to Gershwin and Bernstein, and every item is delivered with style, panache and breathtaking virtuosity. With MTT himself as idiosyncratic soloist, even an old warhorse like *Rhapsody in Blue* (given in the original, leaner version for piano and jazz band) sounds sparkier than ever.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony deliver *New World Jazz* with style and panache

OPERA

THE REVELATION of 1998 was Dvorák's **Rusalka**, little favoured here since the days when the not very nymph-like figure of Joan Hammond emerged from her lily pond in the days of the Sadler's Wells Opera. Decca's recording (460 568-2, three CDs, £46.49) shows how much we have been missing. Bén Heppner and Renée Fleming, both in glorious and glowing voice, bring it back to life as the Prince and the peri, with Fleming especially proving she is the most accomplished of the new generation of sopranos. And there is no faulting the supporting cast, with its sprinkling of Czechs to provide authenticity. That, though, is hardly necessary when our number one Czechophile, Sir Charles Mackerras, is in charge.


Fleming: in glorious and glowing voice

Decca also provided the jolliest set of the year with Rossini's **Il Turco in Italia** (458 924-2, two CDs, £30.99), thanks mainly to the fizzing conducting of the Scala orchestra by Riccardo Chailly. With the help of Cecilia Bartoli as Fiorilla and Michele Pertusi as the visiting Turk, he carefully conceals the fact that this is second-drawer Rossini and he has brought La Scala's Rossini tradition back to where it was in the days of Claudio Abbado.

The year showed that record companies had finally realised it was cheaper to produce a recital disc than a complete opera set. The most engaging of a steady flow was Diana Montague's **Great Operatic Arias** (Chandos, CHAN 3010, £10.49), in which she wisely stuck to the French repertoire. Trouser roles and sultry vamps come equally easily to an underrated mezzo.

JOHN HIGGINS

RECITAL

THE FULL significance of the great pianist Sviatoslav Richter's declaration "Ich bin ein Wanderer" was graphically revealed in the wonderful NVC/Warner video *Richter: the Enigma* — but that's cheating. The quotation, though, prefaces the booklet within my number one record of the year: *Le Voyage Magnifique* of **Maria João Pires** (DG 457 550-2, £23.49), in which the Portuguese pianist makes a keen-eyed and thoughtful journey through the very heart of Schubert. Her performance of his Impromptus reveals a sensibility acutely attuned to the composer's own, and an intense privacy of response which still draws the listener in.

A similar chemistry was at work in **Ian Bostridge's** remarkable re-creation with pianist **Julius Drake** of Schumann's responses to the poet Heine, in a disc which set *Dichterliebe* in the context of the early Op 24 *Liederkreis* and seven other Heine songs (EMI 5 56575 2, £15.99). The raw, sweet-sour quality of Bostridge's young tenor, and his piercing literary intelligence, combine to offer unexpected new insights into a work about which Fischer-Dieskau and Peter Schreier seemed to have said it all.


Pires: acutely in tune with Schubert's sensibility

And just to prove that the wonders of Schumann interpretation really do never cease, I should also mention the revelatory Op 24 *Liederkreis*-plus recording from the even younger German baritone **Stephan Genz** on Claves CD 50-9708 (£12.99).

And then back to the 17th century and Germany's burgeoning love-affair with the South in a set of Baroque cantatas by Schütz, Buxtehude, J. C. Bach *et al*, incomparably performed by counter-tenor **Andreas Scholl** and the Basel Consort on *Kantate* (Harmonia Mundi HMC 901651, £15.99).

HILARY FINCH

CONCERTS: A Finn fiesta, misfiring authenticity, and a top countertenor

Nowells from the far north

A Finnish Christmas
St John's, Smith Square

The *Christmas by Candlelight* series has become a firmly established tradition at St John's, Smith Square, and the more recent Finnish link was reinforced on Sunday afternoon with an imaginatively devised Finnish Christmas Concert. In part a celebration of Finland's Independence Day, it also provided a foretaste of Christmas, with carols and songs appropriate to the season.

Musically, the most substantial items were those by Finland's two leading composers, Rautavaara and Sallinen. The name of Einojuhani Rautavaara is far more forbidding than his music, which over the past few years has acquired cult status and is now being programmed, albeit sporadically, up and down the country. The First Piano Concerto, opening with palm (later forearm) clusters against a rolling arpeggiated accompaniment worthy of Rachmaninov, could easily find its way into the regular repertoire.

Broadly lyrical, yet spiced with pungent dissonance, often bitonally flavoured, the concerto is an impressive vehicle for a performer with both staying power and poetic sensibility. The young Finnish pianist Laura Mikkola, whose recording for Naxos is released this week, happily satisfies the work's demands with ease. She can create tidal waves of left-hand arpeggio, spin an expressively decorative melodic line, and snap crisply into *Rhapsody in Blue* mode for the unexpectedly jazzy finale.

Aulis Sallinen's *Introduction and Tango Overture*, in its British premiere, also reveals the playful side of its composer. Originally for piano quintet, the piece opens in melancholy mood but gradually picks up the characteristic tango rhythms before signing off mid-flow, tango-style. Mikkola was again the soloist, and John Lubbock and his Orchestra of St John's accompanied both works admirably.

In more light-hearted mood still were Palmgren's *Sleigh Ride* and Aaltoila's *Wedding Waltz*, with a selection of Finnish carols for mezzo soloist (Christine Cairns, creditable of pronunciation, I was reliably informed, and all from memory) and choir (that of the OSJ) providing more Christmas fare. Not that the carols were of the *Jingle Bells* variety: rather they resembled operatic arias in Russian style (gloomy, passionate, or both, with luscious orchestral accompaniment).

More familiar was the closing *Silent Night*, in which the audience was invited to join in either English or Finnish.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Brass tarnish

New Queen's Hall Orch/Morris
Barbican

THE PROGRAMME book itself didn't inspire confidence: Bruckner apparently died in 864, the orchestra's director John Boyden was just "artistic". Then came the claims: that Wyn Morris is "only the second conductor" of the Queen's Hall Orchestra since Henry Wood (give or take a 65-year gap); that the New Queen's Hall Orchestra, besides using the types of instruments played in London in 1900, will "play in a more vocally expressive way than has been the custom for more than 60 years".

The warning that the pursuit of "impersonal" technical perfection must be fought is honourable but smacks of muddled thinking about authenticity, where instrumentation is taken literally but not the score.

A faint air of amateurism hung over the proceedings. This is a shame because John Boyden's concept of the New Queen's Hall Orchestra is a good one, and he has scored some notable successes. But the instruments are only a starting-point, how they are to be played is the key.

And how conducted. Morris did not appear to have worked on those aspects of the orchestra which could make its style effective. The narrow-bore brass should enable a special balance and blending, but frequently here the trumpet playing was harshly prominent, and the strings lacked the power to be heard over the brass in Bruckner's big climaxes.

After a well-contrasted if ragged *Freischütz* overture, Roger Montgomery performed Strauss's First Horn Concerto on a 110-year-old French Raoux horn. Unfortunately, he had some trouble with a sticking valve, making for a more subdued performance than we might have expected.

Bruckner's Seventh began magically. Morris's reading was warm and spacious, but relied on recovery time after many of Bruckner's great paragraphs. He held back the first great climax to maximum effect, but his braking of the tempo soon weighed on the performance.

Henry Wood's own Wagner tubas, being played here for the first time since the 1920s, were occasionally stunning in the Adagio, but mostly a quietly cacophonous soup. Trumpets were poorly tuned and notes sawn-off: it is the resonant bloom of the modern brass which makes the final climax glorious.

HELEN WALLACE

Word player

Andreas Scholl
Wigmore Hall

THE THRONG obstructing the pavement in Wigmore Street clearly knew a thing or two. Outside, the rain; inside the Wigmore Hall an evening of Nauwach, Krieger, Fischer and Hammerschmidt. Who? Unlikely candidates, you might think, for one of the hottest tickets in town.

But the champion of these minor masters of the German Baroque was to be Andreas Scholl, possibly the most prodigiously accomplished young countertenor in living memory. His recent recording of Baroque *Kantate* had pointed the way. Shameless sensuous pleasure in the liquid amber of his voice, combined with delight in his high musical intelligence and wit, would make these little-known, sometimes even undistinguished songs seem, for the duration, like some of the greatest music ever written.

And so, for two songs from the 1627 collection of Johann Nauwach, Scholl revelled in the sober contours of melody moulded to poetry of a new clarity and simplicity. He sensed the lunar beauty of *Now the night is closing in*: he raced time's winged chariot in the urgent inflections of *Ah, my love, let us hasten*. For Adam Krieger's contrastingly homespun *My love is white as snow*, Markus Märkl's buoyant harpsichord playing saved the setting from the merely metrical and bubbled through a song about Rhenish wine to heighten the effect of Scholl's already intoxicating word-play.

As melody, too, began to flow more freely and words relax their rule, Johann Philipp Krieger wrote his song *To Solitude* — too difficult for amateurs, not showy enough for professional opera singers, and so doomed to oblivion. But with Scholl subtly modifying the tint of each sighing phrase, this could have been the moment of conception of the Romantic Lied itself.

After the interval Scholl remained seated as Märkl, a pupil of Andreas Staier, revealed himself once again as a gleeful and stylish harpsichordist in the little solo overture to Handel's cantata *Vedendo amore*. Scholl's narration of this chase and capture by Cupid pattered and punned its way through to a finale of deliciously giggling ornamentation. And just when it seemed as if it could not possibly get any better, there was Purcell: as encores, *Sweeter than roses* and *Music for a while* became brightly etched emblems of the entire evening.

HILARY FINCH

ROD EWAR
CEPTED.

upset to talk after the hearing. they tried to hammer a stake

BOOKS

The best gifts are found between hard covers

What to put under the tree? From Coleridge to cosmetic surgery, the Literary Editor introduces our critics' choices



Erica Wagner

They arrive in sacks. This time of year, perhaps only one sack a day; a few months ago, there were four. Big, grey, Royal Mail sacks; and inside the sacks a variety of packaging such as only the Devil could invent. Fingernail-tearing sealed cardboard enclosures — paper cut-inducing synthetic strapping resistant to both scissor and knife — Jiffy bags that spray vile charcoal fluff over absolutely everything.

But I can't really complain: in the sacks, beneath the packaging, are books, and that makes every day like Christmas Day. Despite a general flailing about the death of culture — *pace* OUP and its lost poetry list — the book seems to be more than thriving. If the increase in book "superstores" — the arrival of the American chain Borders in Britain, Simpson's in Piccadilly to become the flagship for Waterstone's as the largest bookstore in the world — causes consternation to those (independent booksellers among them) who fear the imprint of big business on print, there is surely cause to be glad. Sales of book tokens — nearly £20 million worth were sold in 1997 — are set to increase by nearly one fifth this year. The Internet bookstore, Amazon.com, has now risked launching in Britain as Amazon.co.uk: clearly I am not the only one who takes such pleasure in a gift that comes between hard covers.

It has been a fine year, too. It is impossible not to start with a mention of Ted Hughes's remarkable **Birthday Letters** (Faber, £14.99), the wonder of their existence coloured now by sorrow at Hughes's death. I saw them in unbound proof, and the hairs rose on the back of my neck as I first puzzled at the title, then saw the dedication — to his and Sylvia Plath's children, Frieda and Nicholas — then saw the first poem, with its title, *Fulbright Scholars*: "Maybe I noticed you./ Maybe I weighed you up, feeling unlikely." When the poems first appeared they were a revelation, this private man baring his soul for all to see. As time passes they become more than that, a moving meditation on the elusive natures of memory and love.

That *Birthday Letters* became a bestseller is further tribute that the serious reading public has not done any kind of bunk; also flying off the shelves was Peter Ackroyd's **The Life of Thomas More** (Chatto & Windus, £20). His writing for these pages should not stop me saying how much I enjoyed this biography, which brought a complex man vividly to life. More than that, it revealed once again Ackroyd's ability to inhabit completely his beloved London in any age: he makes his readers as comfortable in the 16th-century city as he himself seems to be.

That ability to go anywhere without moving from your armchair — any place or any time — has always seemed to me the whole point of reading: at the most basic level that's always what I am looking for. I never expected, for instance, to be able to see inside Lenin's coffin; but that is precisely what **Lenin's Embalmers**, by Ilya Zbarsky and Samuel Hutchinson (Harvill, £12.99) enabled me to do. This neat, matt-black volume with the great leader's preserved face floating eerily on the front is a doorway to a peculiar, hidden world. Zbarsky is the son of one of the original embalmers — the body is still refreshed every 18 months — and the recounting of how, through all Russia's tribulations, this ghoulish, latter-day icon has survived holds a grim fascination.

A novel that has stayed with me this year is Ethan Canin's third book, **For Kings and Planets** (Bloomsbury, £16.99). Canin is an American writer who gave up a career in medicine (he is a graduate of Harvard Medical School) for his art; I'm certain the world has lost a fine physician but it has gained a subtle and perceptive writer. In a literary landscape that feels crowded with gimmicks, Canin allows breathing space. *For Kings and Planets* is the story of a friendship between a boy from Missouri and the more sophisticated friend he meets when he sets off to college in New York. Love is hard to delineate in fiction; but friendship may be even harder, and Canin's insight makes his simple story take hold of the reader's heart.

Lastly, I would feel I hadn't been doing my duty if I neglected the story, a form dear to my heart. Two volumes published this year give a good feel for the art as it is practised on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. A. S. Byatt gave us **The Oxford Book of the English Short Story** (OUP, £19.99), which takes in Dickens, Ballard, Woolf, Waugh and McEwan with tales that are, in its editor's words, "startling and satisfying". Byatt's volume stands against the notion that the story is a peculiarly American form; however, Richard Ford's editing of **The Granta Book of the American Long Story** (Granta, £12.99) might be seen to prove the opposite — luckily there's no need to argue. Are these tales — by Jane Smiley, Cynthia Ozick, Eudora Welty and Philip Roth, among others — novellas or stories? Ford seems undecided, and gets himself in a bit of a lather about definitions: but he shouldn't have worried. The stories in their grand variety speak for themselves. If you know an avid reader, this — or any of the books mentioned on these pages — I am sure, would make a welcome gift. So long as you don't wrap it in one of those horrible Jiffy bags.

The duck that still quacks

BERYL BAINBRIDGE

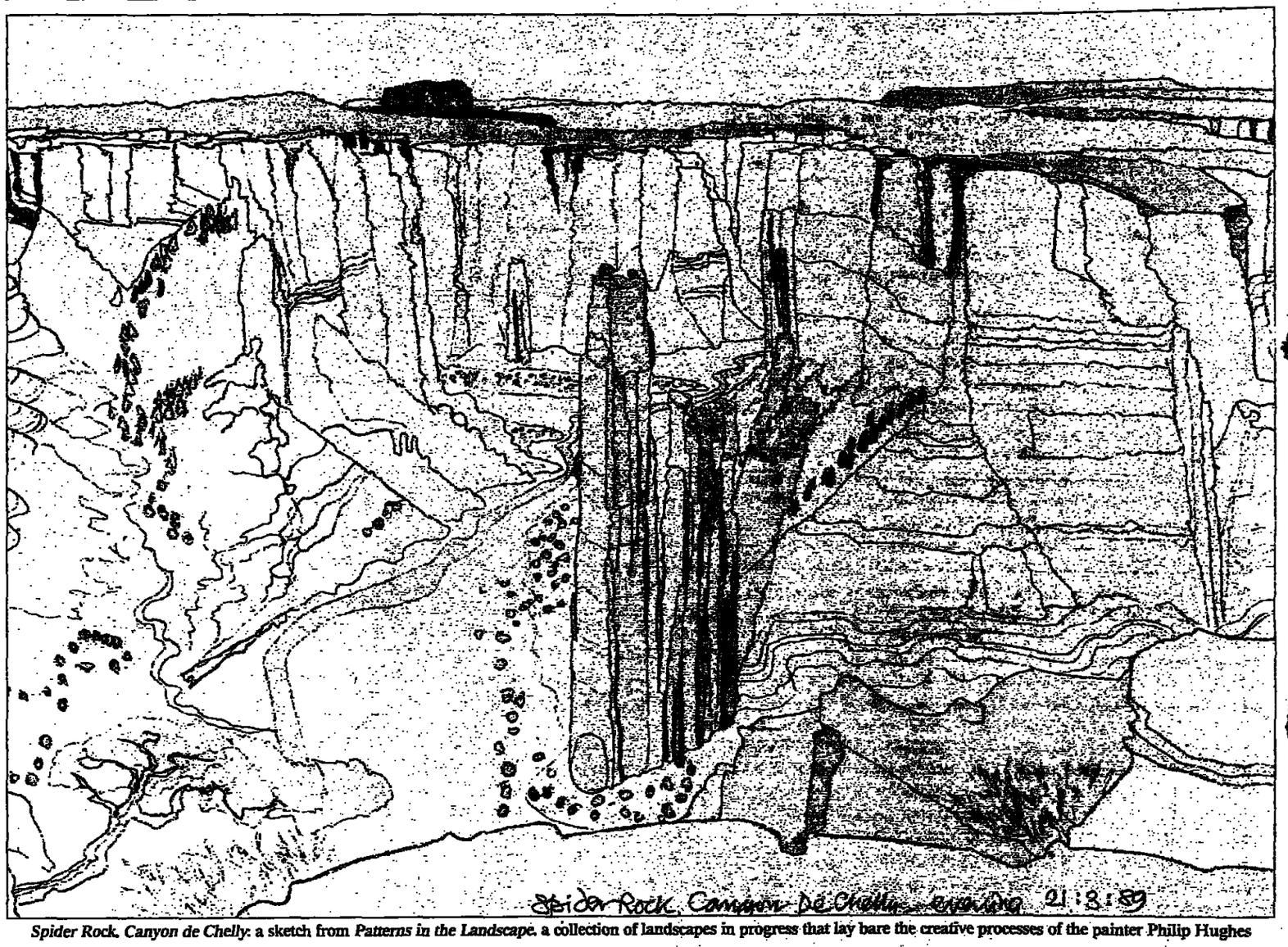
I've read lots of books this year, and enjoyed many of them, but I suspect that as the years advance one is only really uplifted by those which mirror personal preoccupations. For this reason I recommend two above all others: **Woolf at the Door** by John Jolliffe (Duckworth, £16.95) and **Patterns in the Landscape** (Thames & Hudson, £24.95), a superb reproduction of the note/sketchbook of the painter Philip Hughes.

While Hughes shows us the process leading up to a finished work of art, Jolliffe tells the history of the publishing house of Duckworth, founded 100 years ago by Gerald D, he who didn't really like books and who is rumoured to have lifted his half-sister, later to be known as Virginia Woolf, on to a shelf in order to goggle up her skirts.

That excitement apart, the list of authors, literary advisers and editors associated with the firm is awe-inspiring: *Gorky, Waugh, Galsworthy*, Anthony Powell, the Sitwells, Belloc, Edward Garnett, W.H. Hudson, Henry James and D. H. Lawrence. The latter writer defected, reluctantly, to Methuen after being informed that Duckworth had incurred a loss following the publication of *Sons and Lovers*. "It is horrid," he wrote to Garnett, "to see that Duckworth has lost £15 on the book."

In 1938 the composer Mervyn Horder, son of the King's physician, took over the firm. In the last two years of his life he and I met once a month at an "unreconstructed" pub in Camden Town. He was 80 years old, but in the summer he sported flowered shorts and a tea-cosy hat and reminisced about the past, reciting loudly and movingly, to the astonishment of the regulars, those lines penned by Frances Cornford — "O fat white lady who nobody loves".

I was published by Duckworth in 1971, under the directorship of the late and lovely Colin Haycraft and the brilliant editorial guidance of his wife, Anna. In those dear, dead days beyond recall, an editor, a chairman and a staff of six was the norm. Publicity, jacket design, and account departments were shadowy enterprises. It's also true that such things as royalties and advances were not often mentioned, it being understood that it was a privilege to be published at all. I'm still with Duckworth and count myself blessed to be part of its continuing history.



Spider Rock, Canyon de Chelly: a sketch from *Patterns in the Landscape*, a collection of landscapes in progress that lay bare the creative processes of the painter Philip Hughes

From whale to albatross

IAN McINTYRE

"The whaler relieving himself no longer risked being shot into the air by a stream of icy water directed at his bare bottom by a playful sea elephant in the water below." Not the sort of passage normally encountered in a company history, but then Christian Salvesen of Leith was no ordinary company. In the 200 elegant pages of his book **A Whaling Enterprise** (Michael Russell, £17.95) Gerald Elliot has skilfully combined the story of his family firm with an account of the rise and fall of the Antarctic whaling industry in the 20th century. I hardly ever read company histories, and I am normally chary of having a view about anything written by friends, but this is one of the most elegant and absorbing books to come my way this year.

Bare buttocks are also to be glimpsed in the latest novel by Ferdinand Mount, **Jem (and Sam): A Revenger's Tale** (Chatto & Windus, £14.99). Mount has written a picaresque tale about his historically imagined forebear Jeremiah, who in the best traditions of the genre is an accomplished sexual opportunist. The book is a marvellously entertaining evocation of Cromwellian and Restoration England. The parenthetical Sam of the title is Samuel Pepys: "a little man with eyes like children's marbles knocking together". Mount writes with vividly stylish economy: "We stood stiff as playing cards in the narrow room"; "Flattery has a cormorant's appetite"; "The whole country was a maze of ditches and mires and plungeons and



Whaler and whale, 1975

rines". The ponderous Rector of Churn also lingers in the mind: "No woman had been lunatic enough to permit Mr Hignell up her petticoats, and he had breath like a badger."

Given the amount of opium he got through, I could imagine that Samuel Taylor Coleridge's breath was even less fragrant than Mr Hignell's. It is nine years since Richard Holmes won the Whitbread Book of the Year Prize with *Coleridge: Early Visions*. Now **Coleridge: Darker Reflections** (HarperCollins, £19.99) has made its appearance. I have an unfashionable confession to make: I have always been immune to the legendary Coleridge charm. Holmes does nothing to alter my view of his subject as profoundly perverse and tiresome, but what is incontestable is that he has written another outstanding work of biography, a book of subtlety, power and imagination in which not a word is out of place.

Debut novelists who stand out among the pack

RUTH SCURR

Ian Kershaw's **Hitler: 1889-1936, Hubris** (Allen Lane, £20) is a sane, erudite, moral and intellectually honest biography of the 20th century's most destructive politician. Every page is focused on the historical question we would prefer to forget: how did it happen? Carefully weighing the psychological and political facts, Kershaw captures the momentum of Hitler's improbable career: the tramp who became a virtuoso on the keyboard of mass psyche; the risible charlatan whose vulgar ideology destroyed the lives of six million Jews. Very few historians are notable both for their fastidiousness and their bravery. To have produced a book that not only reflects these qualities but brings them to bear on the disturbing subject of Hitler is an achievement of lasting importance.

Two first novels stand out in my mind from the hundreds published this year: they are **The Devil's Chimney** by Anne Landsman (Granta, £9.99) and **Cereus Blooms at Night** by Shani Mootoo (Granta, £14.99). Landsman's novel portrays the crumbling structure of South African society from 1900 to the present day, using ostrich farming to mirror the complex stratification and underlying violence of a society under apartheid. The intricate system for classifying ostriches by gender, size, colour and quality of plumage echoes the segregation of South Africa's human population. *The Devil's Chimney* is a long extended metaphor, with numerous limitations and shortcomings. But it's also a spirited attempt to create something beautiful out of such distressing raw material.

In *Cereus Blooms at Night*, Shani Mootoo's intentions are less clear and the raw material is so packed in that there's a tendency towards unseemly competition: ageism, sexism, homophobia, racism, wife-battering, child abuse, and murder. This is the politically correct novel I tried to hate but couldn't. Set on the small Caribbean town of Paradise, it tells the story of Mala Ramchandin, who finds a sanctuary from bullying humans in the natural world of growth and decay. In a house on mudra stilts, in the shade of an enormous cereus plant, among insects and rare birds, Mala graduates from eccentricity, to madness, to local legend, to hunted lunatic. The novel rehearses the debate about the balance between nature and nurture through a story constructed from the simplest of things: snails, seeds, plants and a gramophone. It's easy to disparage a fairy story, but difficult to invent one.



Anne Landsman's novel *The Devil's Chimney* is a meditation on the evils of apartheid

Philip Roth catches a wave

RUSSELL CELYN JONES

W. G. Sebald's book **The Rings of Saturn** (Harvill, £15.99) was one of the most original works published this year. Impossible to summarise briefly, it combines memoir, travelogue and a historiography of Europe. The thesis of this German author, now a resident in England, holds that European culture, like the rings of Saturn, was formed from the fragments of a shattered world. Sebald explores the deserted Suffolk coast visiting the ruined estates of aristocrats, recalling those calamitous events of history. He writes with a Scott Fitzgerald nostalgia for charity balls at seaside resorts, remembering how common folk rowed out to the end of the pier at Lowestoft to watch "fashionable society swirling to the sound of the orchestra, seemingly borne aloft in a surge of light above the water". His beguiling narrative voice makes the enterprise feel like fiction. His technique for blending so many genres, for transmuting one event or period or setting into another, is executed with hallucinatory skill.

Philip Roth can put more torque on his sentences than writers half his age. His latest, **I Married a Communist** (Jonathan Cape, £16.99), is his twenty-third book and continues his fictional preoccupation with postwar America. It is a tragedy about a self-made Communist, Iron Rinn — radio actor, Jew and idealist — who is ruined by another diametrically opposed idealism, that of McCarthyism. Like Mailer he celebrates masculinity in the forms of sportsmanship and political belief; and like Bellow, Updike and Pynchon, is able to build larger-than-life characters in larger-than-life prose to embody the entire political landscape of a nation.

Philip Roth: larger than life

Another memorable American novel, although of a very different kind is Kem Nunn's **Tapping the Source** (No Exit Press, £6.99). Nunn's take on American society is as forceful as Roth's, but it is a vision seen from the sea, looking in. Ike Tucker learns how to surf in order to infiltrate a violent, hedonistic Californian surfing fraternity which he suspects of murdering his sister.

This novel was originally published in England in 1984 by Michael Joseph and was shamelessly ripped off by the 1991 movie, *Point Break*. But don't let that put you off. This is the original source, where the exhilarating language is engendered directly by the ocean. Further evidence that some of the best American fiction is crime fiction.

BOOKS

Poetry's losses — and its gains

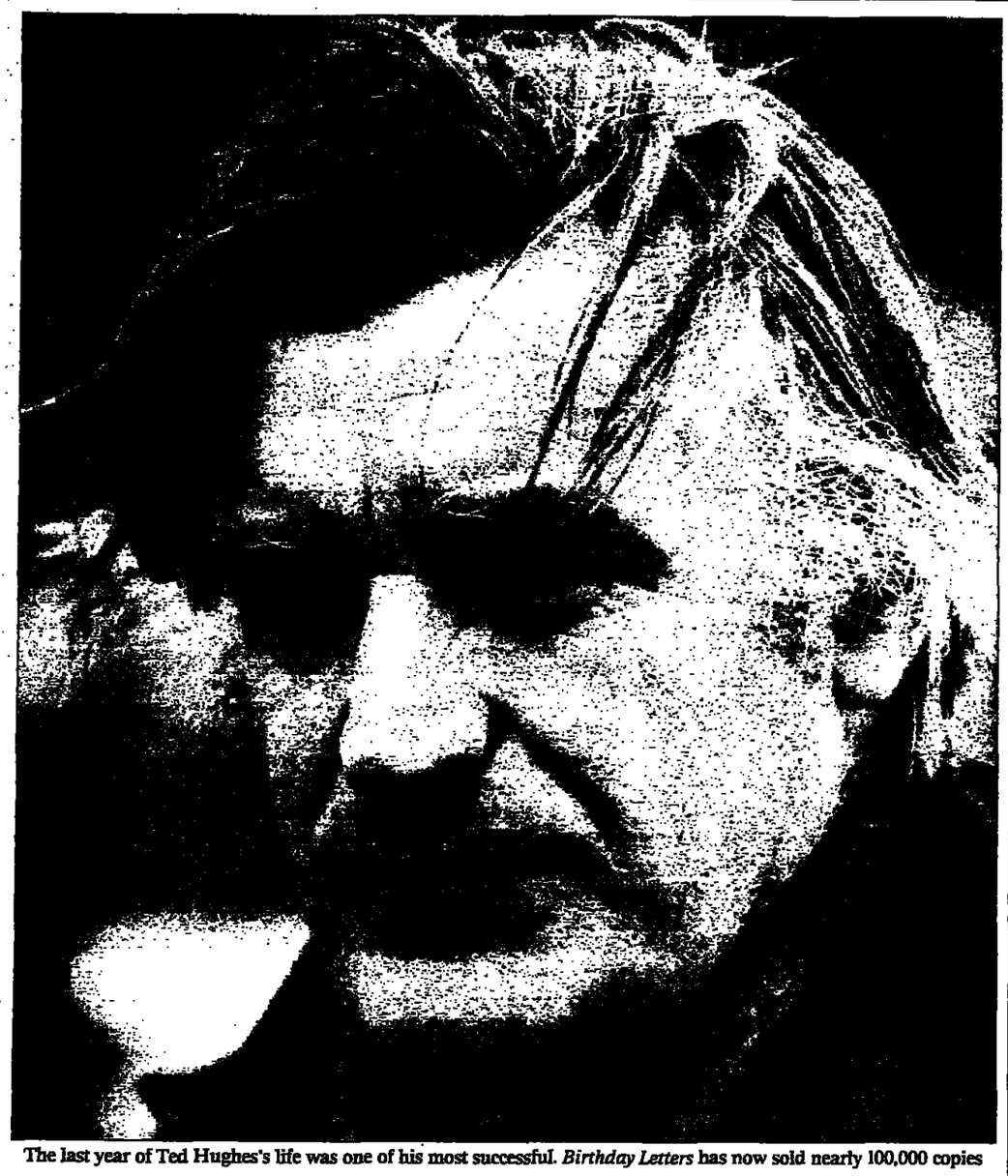
MICHAEL HOFMANN

If one pursued regular accountancy methods, this year wouldn't get out of red figures. Ted Hughes leaves a painful gap as the only English poet of recent times worn the art had, in the words of D. H. Lawrence, "taken by the throat". Earlier in the year the Czech Miroslav Holub and the Pole Zbigniew Herbert died — poets as politically effective in their societies as they were stylistically admired in ours. To add insult to injury, the OUP poetry list was summarily wound up: the ceiling falling in on our harmless games of musical chairs.

The book of the year was Hughes's **Birthday Letters** (Faber, £14.99), a book one had been waiting for without ever expecting to see it, for decades. The poems are of somewhat variable quality, but the humbler, more literal transcriptions of scenes and memories burn with irresistible clarity and power. It seems like Hughes's bridge back to the rest of us: it's odd to have him writing "I-you" poems, finally.

Anthologies come like buses — none for ages, then several at once. November saw two: **Poetry From Britain and Ireland since 1945** edited by Robert Crawford and Simon Armitage (Penguin, £10.99); and **The Firebox: Poetry from Britain and Ireland after 1945** edited by Sean O'Brien (Picador, £10.95). The O'Brien is widely reckoned to be the better book. Both offer standing room only: 150 and 120 poets respectively. What's really needed isn't another doorstep, but "Ocean's Choice of Contemporary British Poetry".

Two other volumes stand out: Paul Muldoon's **Hay** (Faber, £14.99) his most approachable book for some time, though without any diminution of his characteristic guile and inventiveness; and Les Murray's abundant novel-in-verse, **Fredy Neptune** (Carcanet, £18.95). There are also two outstanding imports: Jonathan Galassi's English versions of Montale, **Collected Poems 1920-1954** (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $40), and the prose-poems of the Frenchman Francis Ponge, **Selected Pomes** (Faber, £9.99), a kind of home-made poetic lexicographer ("less than a peach skin, a mist, a hint of muffled dowdiness"). A terrible year, but not, for all that, a bad year.



The last year of Ted Hughes's life was one of his most successful. *Birthday Letters* has now sold nearly 100,000 copies

Modernists and monsters

ROGER SCRUTON



Prize writer: Ian McEwan

To face up to the heartless accusations of a psychotic is hard: to respond to them with compassion and forgiveness is harder still. To make of this confrontation with Nothingness a work of art and a tribute to love is surely a major achievement — one for which Ted Hughes earned the recognition which had long been his due. His last book, **Birthday Letters** (Faber, £14.99) was the literary event of the year; these healing verses ought to be bound with the collected Sylvia Plath. Her poems scratch the consciousness like vengeful fingernails, but Hughes takes the sting away.

In Charles Tomlinson's **Selected Poems** (Oxford University Press, £11.99), the pastoral is more important than the personal. Tomlinson is a priest of high culture, relaying the old and undiminished call to respond finely, truly and allusively to the world. A cool modernist restraint keeps these verses in check. But it does not hide the inner life, in which art and music illuminate a world which is peaceful, domestic and content. In Tomlinson's words:

> Too little
> has been said
> of the door, its one
> face turned to the night's
> downpour and its other
> to the shift and glisten of firelight.

Tomlinson's invocations of America and Italy are memorable; so too are his excursions into history. He is one of our most learned poets, but he wears his learning lightly.

The stream of novels swells. I enjoyed Ian McEwan's **Amsterdam** (Jonathan Cape, £14.99), with its cast of eccentrics. But the novel that gave me most food for thought was A.N. Wilson's **Dream Children** (John Murray, £15.99) — a story of paedophilia, set in a household of monsters. In the not-so-very-distant future, it will be forbidden to criticise paedophilia, as it is now forbidden to criticise homosexuality. Middle-aged men will cuddle their nymphets in public, and politicians, film stars and clergymen will "come out" with the story of their innocent desires. Wilson shows how this will come about. Behind his inquisitorial prose lies the awareness that, divorced from the sacred, sex is a threat not just to children, but to everyone. If you don't share this awareness, then read the worst novel of the year — Irvine Welsh's **Filth** (Jonathan Cape, £9.99) — and you will understand what is at stake.



The curtain falls: Mary Allen at the Royal Opera House

Bel canto to body beautiful: life on the razor's edge

SARAH DUNANT

Being a judge in a literary prize is a sure recipe for fictional indigestion, and I was in serious trouble with the Betty Trask Award until I came upon Nick Earl's **Zig Zag Street** (Pan, £5.99). This charming Australian novel about a young man's emotional tribulations after splitting up with his girlfriend made me laugh out loud while travelling on the Northern Line (and no greater compliment can one pay a book). Underneath its self-deprecating humour and comic set pieces this portrait of contemporary masculine insecurity gives Nick Hornby a serious run for his money. It is honest, humane and romantic (in the original meaing of that word). It's also in paperback. What more could you ask?

More pricey but at least as rewarding is **Venus Envy** by Elizabeth Haiken (Johns Hopkins, £30.50) — a history of cosmetic surgery in America and a book which I waxed lyrical about on these pages earlier in the year. Part history part cultural/economic analysis, it explains better than anything else I've read what made American society so vulnerable to the seduction of the knife and the tyranny of visual conformity. As the idea of the perfect, ageless body becomes ever more dominant in our culture, it's important that we — especially women — understand how we've got ourselves into this mess. *Venus Envy* offers readable perceptive answers. The solution, alas, will prove more difficult.

Finally — the arts scandal of the decade. There will certainly be more books about the cataclysmic debacle of the Royal Opera House, but Mary Allen's **A House Divided** (Simon & Schuster, £17.99) will surely be one of the most honest. Written by the beleaguered chief executive who moved from The Arts Council to the ROH amid accusations of nepotism only to find herself in charge of an organisation in financial and cultural meltdown, this diary of her seven months in the job is jaw-droppingly dramatic. It is also quite brave. Operating under mounting pressures in a bearpit of egos and vested interests, Allen admits to moments of confusion and despair, and though she doesn't come out spotless herself (her slightly breathy Islington manner will no doubt alienate some) she emerges cleaner than others have chosen to paint her. As well as being the story of the last hours of an artistic *Titanic*, the book is also a study in stress, and how the top jobs bring with them a price tag which, if they studied the noughts, few people would be willing to pay.

Food for thought

JEANETTE WINTERSON

Coleridge: Darker Reflections by Richard Holmes (HarperCollins, £19.99) is my first book of the year. Holmes is the perfect biographer for Coleridge because Holmes himself writes with a Romantic sensibility. By that I mean his thoughts are steeped in feeling. The Romantic reaction or corrective to the Age of Enlightenment was an attempt to renew in the self a feeling-toned response to nature and man: wonderment, awe, passion, receptivity, a willingness to trust the mysteriousness of life, and an unashamed worship of some greater force — call it God, Nature or Spirit.

If all this seems familiar to people who have never read a word of Coleridge, Wordsworth, de Quincy and the rest, it is because of the potency of the Romantic rebellion and its impact on our ideas of self and world. Holmes traces this inheritance through the mind of Coleridge, a mind honed to difficulty but edged with brilliance.

To me, there is nothing more interesting than mind, particularly the creative mind and its influence. Rita Carter's **Mapping the Mind** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25) is a fascinating account of the ways in which human behaviour and culture have been moulded by the landscape of the brain.

We know the brain is divided into left and right hemispheres and we know that different areas of the brain control and perhaps even dictate our personality and abilities. It seems that the neural connections in the brain are at their densest and most abundant when a child reaches the age of six: thereafter unwanted connections die back and continue to die back as our interests become narrower and more focused. As adults we can increase our neural connections by learning new skills; otherwise, however smart we like to think we are, it's cabbages all the way.

Rita Carter does not attempt a theory of life — this is not a deterministic book that reduces human complexity to a laboratory rat probe, it is more of a user's manual. Since all of us own a brain we might as well find out how it works and how other people's brains might work differently. Anyone contemplating office suicide this Christmas will be interested to learn about the seasonal effects of stress on the brain and to discover that about 6 per cent of managers display behaviour patterns that would be described as psychotic.

The hypothalamic action of the brain controls appetite and satiety but nothing in our evolution seems to have prepared us for Nigella Lawson's fabulous cookbook **How To Eat** (Chatto & Windus, £25). Next time your lateral nucleus senses falling blood glucose, all you have to do is cook her loin of pork with bay leaves or make up a few prawns with garlic and chilli.

Miss Lawson is the Thinking Person's Cook. She tells stories, she explains why things must be the way she says they must be. Even if you never cook, even if you don't have an oven or even a Calor gas ring, read this book for enlightenment and sensual pleasure. As the lady says: "You could probably get through life without knowing how to roast a chicken, but the question is, would you want to?"



Thinking person's cook: Nigella Lawson on roasting, basting and boiling in *How To Eat*

Biographies that make art out of brute fact

PETER ACKROYD

I recommend **Coleridge: Darker Reflections** by Richard Holmes (HarperCollins, £19.99) as the most significant biography published this year. His first volume of Coleridge's life was published nine years ago and Holmes is steeped in his subject. He need only look into himself in order to find the recesses of the Coleridgean consciousness; he has caught the inflections of Coleridge's own voice, also, so that at times the biography becomes a wonderful synthesis of writer and subject.

Despite his fine scholarship, Holmes's narrative moves as swiftly as any fictional narrative. That biography is a creative art should not be in any doubt; I have always maintained that in fiction one must tell the truth, in order to maintain the intensity of vision, but in biography one may invent, since its form is fictive both in emphasis and in tradition. Richard Holmes recognises this truth in his composition. He has found a wonderful character, and around him he has elaborated a wonderful plot. We may take a sentiment here from the poet who was strongly affected by Coleridge himself: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty." A beautiful book is not only a good book: it is also necessarily a truthful book. *Coleridge: Darker Reflections* satisfies those criteria.

Another successful biography, published this year in paperback, is **A Traitor's Kiss: The Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, 1751-1816** by Fintan O'Toole (Granta, £8.99). Mr O'Toole has by an act of sympathetic imagination seen Sheridan's life as a coherent and significant whole. He regards his Irish ancestry with the passion of a compatriot and manages to locate the striations of Sheridan's private cares within the finely worked texture of his comedies.

O'Toole has also balanced Sheridan's achievements as a playwright beside his ambitions as a statesman, and suggests that they sprang from the same manifest destiny. Yet the test of a good biography is that it is able to illuminate an age as well as one character, and in this respect *A Traitor's Kiss* is a hugely significant account of a theatrical age — an epoch of tears and drink, of sentiment and spectacle, in which Sheridan was one of the leading players.



Relics of a lost civilisation: figures on the Parthenon frieze

Art through the ages

PETER STOTHARD

THREE of this year's most memorable books first appeared in frailer forms. The Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt never published the great work on Greek civilisation which should have been the companion to *The Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy*. Instead this pioneer of cultural history left behind only lecture notes to back his controversial idea that classical 5th-century Athens was a corrupt shadow of the heroic undemocratic city of the century before. The first properly edited version of those notes has now been published. Entitled **The Greeks and Greek Civilisation** (HarperCollins, £24.99), it makes a powerful tale of the lies and greed that Burckhardt saw behind the glories of Pericles's city.

Leonardo's Nephew by James Fenton (Viking, £20) began life as lectures and articles for *The New York Review of Books*. They show Fenton as a pathfinder through the visual arts for those with open minds. But no book of this year, or many others, matches Ted Hughes's chronicle of his life with Sylvia Plath, **Birthday Letters** (Faber £14.99). How Hughes first intended each poem's publication we can only guess at. How we were given them just before he died is a miracle.

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upset to talk after the hearing. | they tried to hammer a stake | assaulted by Mr Rush.

XCEPTED.

Bargains of the week: enjoy Christmas in fancy dress at Bournemouth, on a Caribbean island or skiing in the French Alps



A selection of Christmas holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices

BRITISH ISLES

HOTELS up and down the country, offering everything from a sophisticated house-party to "vicars and tarts" fancy dress, still have rooms available over Christmas. The house-party takes place in the 14th-century Charingworth Manor Hotel at Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds, with a three-night stay costing £525 with all meals and use of the leisure centre. *Tony Dawe writes.*

Parlour games, carol-singing and a Boxing Day treasure hunt are among the activities at a coaching inn at Malton, north Yorkshire, where a three-night stay costs £195 with all meals. Both are available from English Rose Hotels. Details: 01723 374374.

The fancy-dress venue is the Durley Dean Hotel in Bournemouth, which also offers carols, cabaret and a treasure hunt. A four-night stay from December 23 with Superbreak costs from £379 with half-board and all activities. Details: 01904 679999.

■ GOLF and the Leopardstown Festival horse-race meeting can be combined with Christmas and other traditional festivities at the Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links near Dublin. Prices start from £213 for a two-night break with travel extra. Details: 00353-1846 0611.

■ TAKE to the drink for Christmas by hiring a cruiser from Norfolk Broads Direct. A week from December 22 costs from £352 for a vessel sleeping two to four with a bigger boat costing from £545. All are equipped with well-fitted galleys for cooking the Christmas lunch but there are plenty of riverside hostelries for those who prefer to eat on firm land. Details: 01603 782207.

■ JERSEY Direct still has packages available for the festive season with a week's half-board in hotels costing £259 and including an entertainment programme. Sail on the catamaran from Poole on December 22 or, for an extra £40, fly from Gatwick or Southampton. Details: 01534 645240.

■ BRACING air before Christmas is promised by Countrywide, which is offering two nights' dinner, B&B plus picnic lunches for £50 in guest houses in the Lake and Peak Districts, as well as at Whitby next week. Details: 0161-446 2226.

CHARLES KNIGHT/UNP



The *Endeavour* experiences Whitby harbour's bracing air

DOUG SAGER



Skiing the roof of Europe: festive holidays on the slopes are still available in Italy, Austria and the French Alps

EUROPE

IF SKIING is your favourite way of spending Christmas Day, festive holidays on the slopes are still available. Be warned, however, that most involve an early departure and return on Boxing Day or the next day.

Christmas week in the Italian resort of Sauze d'Ouix has even been reduced in price by Crystal Ski and is now available for £259, a £130 saving. The price includes flights from Birmingham or Manchester on December 20, dinner with wine, B&B and afternoon tea in the Chalet Tosco in the centre of town.

Austrian resorts including Kitzbuhel and Söll are also available, again for the week from December 19 to 26, with prices as low as £169, including return flights from a choice of several UK airports. But if you would prefer a week's skiing before Christmas, Crystal still has places on its self-drive holidays for a week from Saturday from £139. Details: 0181-399 5144.

■ FRENCH Alpine resorts are also available for a week from December 19 with The Skiers Travel Bureau. You can fly from Gatwick or Manchester airports and stay in a catering chalet at Courcheval from £293 or at Alpe D'Huez, Isère, from £306. Details: 01858 468858.

■ NORTHERN Cyprus is certain to offer an unusual setting for a Christmas holiday and Metak — which specialises in holidays to the Turkish part of the island — is offering a week's B&B at a hotel in Kyrenia overlooking the Mediterranean for £419 with return flights from Stansted on a choice of dates. Details: 0171-935 6961.

■ PRAGUE, especially its medieval centre, can resemble a Christmas card scene — and you can be part of it with Travellers Czech, which still has places on its short breaks completed by December 27. Three nights' B&B cost from £229 with return flights from Heathrow. Details: 01959 540700.

■ HEAD for Portugal this weekend and return straight after Christmas and you will enjoy unbeatable prices. First Choice is offering a fortnight's B&B in an Algarve hotel for £99 with flights from Gatwick or Manchester airports on Saturday, and Sunset Holidays has two week's self-catering in Praia da Rocha for £149 with a flight from Manchester on Sunday. Details: First Choice, 0870-750 0100; Sunset, 01204 434441.

■ MADEIRA is the ideal warming drink to set yourself up for Christmas festivities and there will be no shortage of it if you take advantage of a bargain holiday offer to the island which produces it. Fly from Birmingham or Glasgow on Monday and a fortnight's B&B in a three-star hotel will cost £269 with Eclipse. Details: 0990 010203.

■ NEW YEAR'S Eve fireworks on Madeira are among spectacular events which can be enjoyed during 12 days at sea with Festival Cruises. The trip starts with a flight from Stansted to Venice on December 27 and ports of call include Almeria for an overland visit to Granada, Tenerife, Casablanca, Gibraltar and Barcelona. Prices start from £1,199, with children under 17, who share with two adults, paying £575. Special offers are also available for single-parent families. Details: 0171-436 0827.

■ GHENT'S historic Gravensteen hotel in the shade of the castle is available for three-night breaks over Christmas with Eurotours. Prices start at £199 for B&B and include return rail travel from London. Details: 0181-289 8889.

CARIBBEAN islands are the dream destinations for many holidaymakers over the Christmas period and some still have accommodation available, but at a price. The best deals, as always, are in self-catering houses and apartments.

■ A FORTNIGHT from December 22 in a town house with two bedrooms at Jolly Harbour, Antigua, costs £969, based on four sharing, while two weeks from December 24 in apartments in Barbados are available for £989, based on three sharing. Both holidays include return flights from Gatwick and are on offer from Hayes and Jarvis, which also has all-inclusive holidays available on the two islands for the same period from £1,499. Details: 0181-222 7833.

■ IF THEY sell out fast, a similar deal to Antigua is on offer from Direct Line Holidays and to Barbados from Advantage Travel Centres. Details: Direct Line, 0181-239 8000; ATC, 0870-909 0070.

■ BARGAINS are available to Beijing, with China Holidays offering six nights B&B at a four-star hotel from £399 including return flights every Sunday. There is still availability for Christmas week and sightseeing packages are on offer for an extra £30. Details: 0171-287 6727.

■ AUSTRALIA for a fortnight over Christmas for less than £1,000 is on offer from Australia's Great Escape but you will have to be quick to take advantage. The flight leaves Gatwick on Wednesday for Brisbane, where two weeks self-catering at Noosa Beach, north of the city, and car hire are included in the £922 price. Details: 0171-584 0202.

■ SPEND Christmas Day tracking elephants, leopards, giraffes and lions in the Serengeti National Park as part of a fortnight's East of Africa safari with Encounter. The trip starts from Nairobi on December 20 and takes in the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania and Murchison National Park in Uganda before ending in Kampala. The all-inclusive cost is £1,077 but flights are extra and can be arranged from £350. Details: 0171-37 6845.

■ A NEARER part of Africa, also intriguing in its own way, is on offer from Islan Sun Direct which has cut the price of Christmas holidays to Marrakech. For £589, fly from Gatwick on Christmas Eve, enjoy half-board with two gala dinners at a four-star hotel before returning on New Year's Day. Details: 01703 529529.

■ SAVINGS of £20 are available on Christmas week holidays in Las Vegas, where you might even win some cash as well on the gaming tables. The £399 offer from Unijet includes a return flight from Gatwick on December 21 and hotel accommodation. Details: 0990 336336.



Street life Beijing style

■ THE ISRAEL resort of Eilat is available at discounts over Christmas with Peltours. Fly from Luton on December 20 and stay for a week in a central hotel for £47 with B&B or enjoy half-board at a north beach hotel for £49. Details: 0181-343 0590.

● *All prices based on two sharing a room and travelling together unless otherwise stated.*



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RACING

Bookmakers plot £10m answer to levy dispute

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

A FINANCIAL carrot, worth around £10 million a year, is likely to be dangled in front of racing by the big bookmakers next autumn in an attempt to sideline the more extreme demands of Peter Savill, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) chairman.

The sizeable offer will probably be made in the run-up to the October 31 deadline for reaching agreement on a new levy deal — as part of a carefully-timed tactical move aimed at outflanking the forthright BHB leader.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has made it clear that he does not want to be called upon to determine the 39th levy scheme — which would happen if racing and betting fail to reach agreement. So the bookmakers are expected to gamble on making an offer which appeals to a majority of BHB directors in the belief that, if it is rejected, Straw could end up awarding racing next to no extra money.

Although there have been no formal discussions, the kind of offer being talked about seriously within the betting industry would see racing regaining the £5 million a year lost when bookmakers reverted last April to a shop-based scheme for calculating the levy — plus an additional sum ranging from £3 to £7 million. Such an offer would delight Rob Hughes, the new Levy Board chairman, who is determined to get an agreement.

The betting industry tactic is also based on the knowledge that beneath the veneer of BHB unity, a majority of directors regard Savill as something of a loose cannon, who fires off shots in all directions — sometimes at his own side.

While acknowledging his intellectual strengths and single-minded determination to gain racing a better deal, several BHB directors privately despair at the way he antagonises and alienates so many people for no apparent reason. The Gimcrack dinner at York on Tuesday offered the latest example when his remarks incensed Peter Jones, the widely-respected chairman of the Tote, and Angus Crichton-Miller, the Racecourse Association chairman who, until recently, was Savill's strongest supporter on the BHB.

In all probability, an offer of £10 to £12 million extra levy — taking the total to above £60 million a year — would be acceptable to most BHB directors, although it falls a long way short of the £80 million a year extra identified in the Financial Plan, compiled by Savill.

While racing can look forward to the prospect of such a levy boost, there is now a genuine concern about the future of a similarly-sized sum of funding provided by the Tote, after its expected privatisation. The Government has yet to decide how — or if — the Tote's contribution to racing's coffers, worth £10 million last year, should be maintained.

A year has now passed since Sheikh Mohammed made his much-publicised Gimcrack speech in which he threatened to quit British racing unless its financial structure was improved. The Maktoum family clearly believes its words have been listened to and acted upon, judging by the speech of Sheikh Ahmed, a brother of Sheikh Mohammed and owner of Josr Algarhoud, the Mick Channon-trained winner of this year's Gimcrack Stakes.

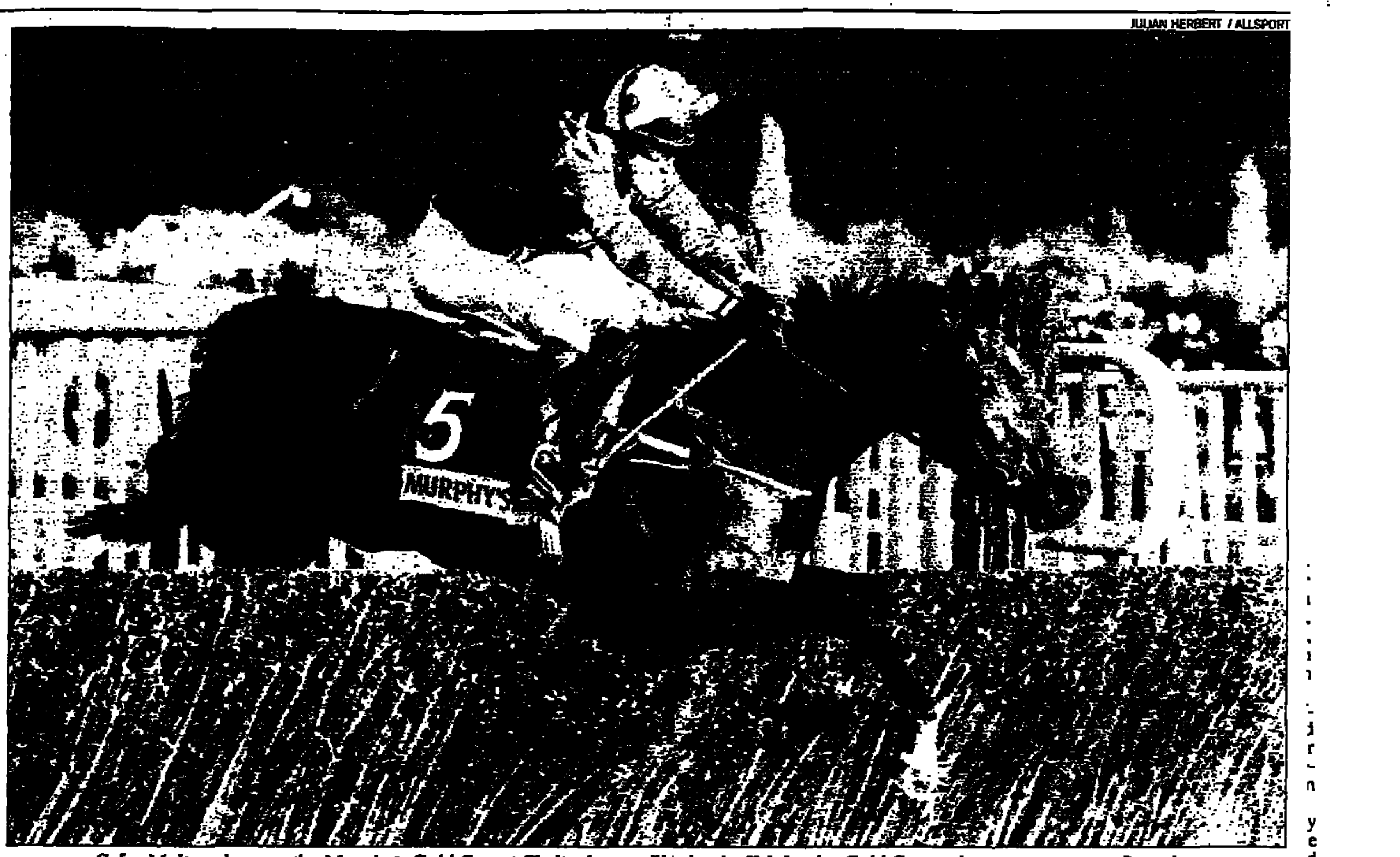
"My brothers and I welcomed the positive reaction that followed last year's speech. The racing industry clearly understood that what was said came from a desire to help and be positive about our sport," he said.

RICHARD EVANS

NAP: CARDINAL RULE
(2.50 Taunton)

A drop in class and longer trip can see Cardinal Rule record his sixth chasing success for the in-form Venetia Williams yard.

Next best: Baroncelli
(2.00 Market Rasen)


JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Cyfor Malta, who won the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham, will miss the Tripleprint Gold Cup at the same course on Saturday

Cyfor Malta ruled out of Tripleprint

CYFOR MALTA, as short as 2-1 in some ante-post lists for the Tripleprint Gold Cup Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday, will miss the race. The five-year-old, trained by Martin Pipe, had been a solid favourite since the betting opened on Monday.

Indications that all was not well with Cyfor Malta came in mid-afternoon when bookmakers' telephone lines started buzzing with inquiries about other horses in the race. One of the biggest in demand was the ante-post favourite's stablemate, Northern Starlight.

Confirmation eventually came from Pipe. "We're not 100 per cent happy with the horse and he won't be running at the weekend," he said. He did not wish to elaborate on the problem but did say that the setback was not serious.

So the chance remains that Cyfor Malta, the impressive winner of the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham last month, will be fit to tackle the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Pipe is now likely to be represented in Saturday's £75,000-added Cheltenham contest by Northern Starlight, the probable mount of the champion jockey, Tony McCoy, although a spokeswoman for the stable could not confirm the jockey booking yesterday.

Cyfor Malta, a possible Gold Cup contender this season, had been all the rage for Saturday's big race. William Hill spokesman, David Hood, said: "We laid plenty of the horse at 5-2 yesterday but it seems that he's not 100 per cent and won't run.

"We knew something was amiss when we started to lay the next couple in the betting. However, I can understand them not wanting to take any chances as he has a big future."

William Hill now makes Stormy Passage the 11-4 favourite (from 9-2), but Ladbrokes and Coral have suspended betting until today. The revised betting from Hills is: 11-4 Stormy Passage, 5-1 Simply Dashing, 6-1 Mr Strong Gale, 13-2 Super Coin, 10-1 Dr Leunt, Northern Starlight, Pete The Parson, 14-1 Queen Of Spades, 16-1 others.

☐ Relkeel is likely to try to repeat last year's win in the Bula Hurdle, also at Cheltenham on Saturday.

TAUNTON

THUNDERER

12.50 Perfect Venue. 1.20 Eden Dancer. 1.50 Cedar Square. 2.20 Honey Mount. 2.50 Cardinal Rule. 3.20 Hay Dance.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 ARCTIC CHANTER.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

12.50 BODDINGTONS BITTER NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,197: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

101 -12411 MERSEY BEAT 14 (CD,F,G,S) (B Parrick) G L Moore 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy
102 0 BLAZING CASTLE 28 (Mrs D Watterall) N Hawke 4-10-12 ... R Greene —
103 0/0- CLOUDY BILL 325 (M Howard) Miss H Knight 6-10-12 ... J Culloty —
104 0F- EAGLE CANYON 385 (The Swan Partnership) F Jordan 5-10-12 ... D Gallagher —
105 4/5/5 GERGAASH 55 (Erth Valley Racing) R Buckler 6-10-12 ... D O'Sullivan (7) —
106 GLADIATEUR IV 148F (Cabra Partnership) P Hobbs 4-10-12 ... R Dunwoody —
107 MOTET 78F (H Jarvis) M Pitman 4-10-12 ... N Williamson —
108 2 NAKHAL 23 (D Hooper) N Ayliffe 5-10-12 ... R Johnson 38
109 OTHER CLUB 5F (J Portman) J Portman 4-10-12 ... Mr N Fehily (7) —
110 53-2 PERFECT VENUE 19 (BF) (Martin Pinns) N Henderson 5-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald 105
111 50 REAR WINDOW 7 (Dawn Bald Ltd) G McCourt 4-10-12 ... R Hobson (7) 54
112 50- REMI DOONE 422 (St James Racing Club Cheltenham) N Babbage 6-10-12 ... B Fenton —
113 40- SMOKEY PETE 480 (Miss M Hinton) R Buckler 4-10-12 ... B Powell —
114 6 ISCA MAIDEN 40 (Mrs C Davies) P Hayward 4-10-7 ... T Dascombe 69

BETTING: 6-4 Mersey Beat, 11-4 Perfect Venue, 11-2 Gladiateur IV, 6-1 Motet, 8-1 Nakhal, 20-1 Gergaash, 25-1 Cloudy Bill, 33-1 others.

1997: GREY SHOT 5-10-12 R Dunwoody (1-3 fav) I Balding 14 ran

Mersey Beat beat Davosti ¾l in 13-runner novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good); previously beat Eden Heights 8l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). Blazing Castle 42l 10th of 14 to Prince Of India in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Cloudy Bill 30l 11th of 17 to Commanche Hero in maiden nat hunt flat at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). Eagle Canyon pulled up in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft), previously 41l 7th of 8 to Eric's Bett in maiden hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good to firm). Gergaash 54l 5th of 7 to Mazileo in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Motet, useful staying handicapper on Flat, sold out of G Wragg's stable for 25,000gns. Nakhal 11l 2nd of 5 to Native Fling in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). Other Club, modest all-weather performer on Flat, well beaten at Wolverhampton on Saturday. Perfect Venue 19l 2nd of 11 to Renzo in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft). Rear Window 50l 7th of 14 to Grecian Dart in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). Remi Doone beaten a distance 12th of 14 to Justin Mac in national hunt flat race at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). Smokey Pete 31l 7th of 15 to Astro Lines in maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m, good to soft). Isca Maiden 33l 6th of 14 to Bluedonix in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft).

PERFECT VENUE can make the most of the 7lb he receives from Mersey Beat

1.20 ILMINSTER SELLING HURDLE
(£1,558: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

201 066-4P EDEN DANCER 58 (B,BF,F,G) (G Hamilton) M Pipe 6-11-12 ... A P McCoy 51
202 -45333 BRIGHT ECLIPSE 28 (F) (Mrs G Goddard) R Frost 5-11-5 ... J Frost 73
203 120-66 HOTSPUR STREET 17 (B,G) (Mrs D Samworth) E James 6-11-5 ... Miss S Samworth (7) 68
204 560-00 AFICIONADO 22 (Mrs C Cole) R Hodges 4-10-12 ... T Dascombe 63
205 -00040 DON'T WORRY MIKE 6 (Miss E Hill) K Bridgwater 4-10-12 ... M Griffiths (5) 58
206 453-P0 MUSIC CLASS 28 (B) (Horses Away Racing Club) R Baker 7-10-12 ... J Culloty —
207 4R0002 PABLO'S JET 22 (Wyvern Racing) P Farrell 5-10-12 ... N Williamson 70
208 P000P- SHADED 204 (D Maity) D Miloy 4-10-12 ... L Aspell 55
209 40-424 SHADIRWAN 9 (C Popham) C Popham 7-10-12 ... R Dunwoody 59
210 000-P0 SPENCER STALLONE 22 (V) (Roe Racing Ltd) Graeme Roe 5-10-12 ... S Graham (7) 66
211 33-553 ABSOLUTE PROOF 13 (Queenstown Pinrs) W G M Turner 5-10-7 ... J Power (7) [illegible]
212 0P- FLICKERING LIGHT 514 (Mrs J Hawkins) Mrs J Hawkins 7-10-7 ... J Magee —
213 0665FP FLUTTERBY LADY 20 (Mrs R Healey) A Barrow 5-10-7 ... S Burrough 74
214 6/5-FP PERSIAN DAWN 23 (R & L John) R Frost 5-10-7 ... T O'Connor (7) —
215 P TRENDY GIRL 51 (M Hill) M Hill 7-10-7 ... B Salter (3) —
216 2430-0 WOODLANDS ENERGY 34 (Woodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 7-10-7 ... R Bellamy 23

BETTING: 5-4 Shadirwan, 11-2 Eden Dancer, 6-1 Pablo's Jet, 8-1 Bright Eclipse, Absolute Proof, 12-1 Aficionado, 16-1 Flutterby Lady, 20-1 others.

1997: THE MINDER 10-10-12 D Salter (9-4 fav) G Edwards 16 ran

Eden Dancer pulled up in selling handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft); previously 16l 4th of 8 to Indiana Princess in handicap hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good). Bright Eclipse 5½l 3rd of 14 to Killing Time in selling handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) with Aficionado (11lb better off) 16l 7th. Pablo's Jet (2lb worse off) 35l 11th and Music Class (2lb worse off) 61l 13th. Hotspur Street 31l 6th of 11 to Rajati in selling hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Don't Worry Mike 35l 7th of 12 to Cadbury Castle in selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f good). Pablo's Jet short head 2nd of 18 to Cadbury Castle in selling handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good) with Don't Worry Mike (levels) 8½l 4th, Aficionado (13lb better off) 12l 8th and Spencer Stallone (levels) 38l 15th. Shaded pulled up in 4yo novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Shadirwan 9l 4th of 5 to Worcestershire in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft). Absolute Proof 11l 3rd of 11 to Prussia in selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, soft). Flickering Light pulled up in claiming hurdle at Wolverhampton (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm); previously 47l last of 9 to Silverdale Lad in maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). Flutterby Lady pulled up in selling hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). Trendy Girl pulled up in novice hurdle. Persian Dawn pulled up in selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft). Woodlands Energy 32l 9th of 11 to Golden Lily in novice selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft).

SHADIRWAN is not the most reliable performer but can take a weak contest

1.50 TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
[SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE]
(£7,035: 2m 3f) (12 runners)

301 /P11-U CEDAR SQUARE 12 (BF,F,S) (A Rheam) V Darknall 7-12-0 ... R Dunwoody 115
302 43135- FITZMAURICE 229 (D,S) (Aston) R Phillips 6-11-9 ... G Bradley —
303 /10-22 CONNAUGHT CRACKER 14 (F) (Mrs A Tinckwell) P Nicholls 8-10-13 ... J Tizzard 45
304 546-15 FOURTH IN LINE 21 (G,S) (J Nicholls Ltd) Miss V Williams 10-10-13 ... N Williamson 118
305 5263-6 SIX CLERICS 10 (S) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 5-10-8 ... B Clifford 104
306 45P-12 RELKANDER 15 (G) (Mrs M Buckley) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-6 ... D Leahy [illegible]
307 61-F25 STORM FORECAST 26 (F) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 6-10-4 ... J Culloty 117
308 /30P-P LOCH NA KEAL 21 (F) (S Kimber) C Morlock 6-10-1 ... D Gallagher —
309 2/80/5 TOM PINCH 6 (G) (Baldings (Training) Ltd) G Balding 9-10-0 ... B Fenton —
310 26-343 MURRAY'S MILLION 13 (Cotswold Connection) J Smith 6-10-0 ... R Johnson 76
311 3U32- CRACKING PROSPECT 678 (Mrs J Gledon) B Millman 7-10-0 ... D Salter (3) —
312 0EP42- HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 364 (D,S) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 7-10-0 ... J Harris (5) —

Long handicap: Murray's Million 9-12, Cracking Prospect 9-11, Hightown Cavalier 9-9.

BETTING: 11-4 Relkander, 4-1 Fourth In Line, 9-2 Cedar Square, Storm Forecast, 5-1 Connaught Cracker, 14-1 Tom Pinch, 20-1 Fitzmaurice, Hightown Cavalier, Murray's Million, 25-1 others.

1997: WINNOW 7-10-8 J Culloty (5-1) Miss H Knight 13 ran

Cedar Square unseated rider in chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft); previously beat Last Option 1¾l in 7-runner novice hunter chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good to firm). Fitzmaurice beaten a distance 5th of 7 to Skycab in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously 25l 3rd of 10 to George Bull in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Connaught Cracker 16l 2nd of 10 to Country Beau in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). Fourth In Line 15l 5th of 14 to King Of Sparta in novice handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to soft); previously beat High Park Lady 8l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). Six Clerics 63l 6th of 12 to Imad in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, soft); previously beaten a distance 3rd of 8 to Premier Streak in novice handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Relkander 16l 2nd of 7 to Distant Echo in novice chase with Relkander (17lb worse off) beaten a distance 6th. Relkander 10l in 8-runner novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously beat Charming Girl 10l in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good). Storm Forecast 49l last of 5 to Stormyfairweather in novice chase at Sandown (2m, good). Loch Na Keal pulled up in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft); previously 7l 2nd of 4 to Lacodo in novice chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Tom Pinch 13l 5th of 11 to Rathe King in novice chase at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Murray's Million 30l 3rd of 6 to Tremolit in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). Cracking Prospect 8l 2nd of 9 to Indian Jockey in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good); previously 1¼l 3rd of 14 to Frontier Flight in novice handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). Hightown Cavalier 3l 3rd of 13 to Winnow in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good); previously 43l 4th of 14 to Mr Strong Gale in novice handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good).

CEDAR SQUARE will be hard to beat if putting in a clear round

2.20 HEINEKEN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,880: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

401 2P3-44 MISTER DRUM 14 (F,G,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 9-11-10 ... G Bradley 100
402 22-54F DEFENDTHEREALM 9 (S) (G Standing) R Frost 7-11-7 ... J Frost 109
403 12/15- BURLINGTON SAM 456 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Reip) A Hobbs 10-10-12 ... A P McCoy —
404 12-411 ARCTIC CHANTER 8 (G,S) (Exe Valley Racing) P Hobbs 6-10-12 (6ex) ... R Dunwoody [illegible]
405 3/12/0 ELITE REG 56 (V,D,F,G,S) (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 9-10-11 ... — 35
406 541/20 HONEY MOUNT 17 (CD,F) (P Green) R Alner 7-10-10 ... R Johnson 106
407 43441/ SUPREME MASTER 950 (G,S) (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 8-10-9 ... J Tizzard —
408 111F2P BRUSH WITH FAME 46 (D,F,G) (J & B Gibbs & Sons Ltd) P Hobbs 6-10-5 ... B Powell 109
409 05-025 THE MINDER 7 (B,C,G,S) (G Edwards) G Edwards 11-10-0 ... D Salter (3) 103

Long handicap: The Minder 9-12

BETTING: 11-10 Arctic Chanter, 7-1 Defendtherealm, Elite Reg, 8-1 Mister Drum, 10-1 Honey Mount, 12-1 Burlington Sam, Supreme Master, Brush With Fame, 20-1 The Minder.

1997: TORCH VERT 5-10-10 A P McCoy (4-5 fav) M Pipe 9 ran

Mister Drum 8l 4th of 10 to Harry in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good), previously 14l 4th of 8 to Danger Baby in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good to firm). Defendtherealm fell in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft), previously 60l last of 4 to Collier Bay in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, good to soft). Burlington Sam 43l 5th of 7 to Name Of Our Father in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, good to firm); previously beat Commanche Creek 29l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, good to firm). Arctic Chanter beat Walter's Destiny 17l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 7f, good); previously beat Quelque Chose 6l in 13-runner selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft). Honey Mount 45l 11th of 12 to Dashing Dollar in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good); previously 1¾l 2nd of 6 to Be My Mot in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, soft). Supreme Master beat Holy Wanderer 1l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) with Mister Drum (11lb better off) 1l 3rd. Brush With Fame pulled up in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good); previously 2½l 2nd of 9 to On My Toes in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, firm) with Elite Reg (4lb better off) 46l last. The Minder 39l 5th of 20 to Apache Park in selling handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good), previously 2l 2nd of 8 to Dutch in selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1l, good to soft).

ARCTIC CHANTER has won his last two starts in good style and can defy a 6lb penalty

2.50 STELLA ARTOIS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,318: 3m) (14 runners)

501 00P5-2 DECYBORG 7 (D,F,G) (T Neill) M Pipe 7-12-0 ... A P McCoy —
502 5345P- FOOLS ERRAND 315 (F,G,S) (Mrs D Russell) G Balding 8-12-0 ... B Clifford —
503 1/31-U CARDINAL RULE 8 (BF,G,S) (P Burch) Miss V Williams 9-11-12 ... N Williamson —
504 0/5-03 PERSIAN TACTICS 6 (F,G,S) (T Needham) T Needham 9-11-8 ... R Bellamy 55
505 U312-3 BOLD STATEMENT 10 (D,F,G,S) (Countess Cadogan) H Daly 6-11-4 ... R Johnson 119
506 PUU-P3 FULL OF BOUNCE 7 (D,G,S) (Fieldspring Racing) R Hodges 7-10-12 ... T Dascombe 70
507 22/2-0 SCUD MISSILE 17 (F,G) (A K Collins) M Heaton-Ellis 7-10-9 ... B Powell 44
508 F1-PR3 LEGAL ARTIST 63 (D,F,G) (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 8-10-7 ... D Gallagher —
509 3P-54F LUGS BRANNIGAN 17 (F) (M Fitzpatrick) M Bradstock 9-10-7 ... G Bradley 109
510 134-00 AMERICANVAL 14 (S) (S M D Oliver) S Mellor 10-10-6 ... C Webb —
511 P13/F0 MONKS JAY 17 (F,G) (J Cover) G Thorner 9-10-1 ... J Culloty 42
512 5451P4 INDIAN TEMPLE 28 (CD,F) (D Clarke) K Bishop 7-10-0 ... R Greene 118
513 321583 QUALITAIR MEMORY 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (C Tizzard) C Tizzard 9-10-0 ... J Tizzard [illegible]
514 U03P-4 BORO HILL 17 (D,G) (R Allsop) A Hobbs 9-10-0 ... O Burrows (5) 91

Long handicap: Qualitair Memory 9-13, Boro Hill 9-1.

BETTING: 9-4 Cardinal Rule, 3-1 Decyborg, 5-1 Bold Statement, 10-1 Lugs Brannigan, 12-1 Fools Errand, Qualitair Memory, 14-1 Indian Temple, 20-1 others.

1997: GALATASORI JANE 7-12-0 Mr J Tizzard (4-1) P Nicholls 8 ran

Decyborg 1l 2nd of 7 to Kinnahalla in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good); previously 37l 5th of 10 to Lady Rebecca in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). Fools Errand pulled up in amateur handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good) with Full Of Bounce (1lb worse off) unseated rider, previously beaten a distance 5th of 6 to Brave Highlander in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Cardinal Rule unseated rider in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good to soft), previously beat Speaker Weatherill 1½l in 3-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good). Persian Tactics beaten a distance 3rd of 5 to Influence Pedler in handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good), previously 43l 9th of 15 to Black Statement in handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good) with Monks Jay (6lb better off) 55l 11th. Bold Statement beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Hoodwinker in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, heavy), previously 8l 2nd of 16 to Sir Dante in novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Full Of Bounce beaten a distance 3rd of 7 to King Of Sparta in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good). Scud Missile 59l 7th of 17 to Garrison Friendly in novice handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good) with Lugs Brannigan (3lb worse off) left. Legal Artist 33l 3rd of 5 to Snow Board in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm). Americanval 27l 7th of 10 to Harry in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good). Indian Temple 33l 4th of 10 to Wishing William in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). Qualitair Memory 8l 3rd of 10 to Jefferies in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). Boro Hill 30l 4th of 5 to Kinnahalla in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m 3f 110yd, good).

DECYBORG made a promising reappearance at Wincanton and can defy top weight

3.20 STOGUMBER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,787: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

601 61P-24 PAPUA 20 (F) (R Hitchins) I Balding 4-11-10 ... F Keniry (7) [illegible]
602 531F/F HAY DANCE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Wessex Go Racing Pinrs) P Hobbs 7-11-4 ... R Dunwoody —
603 113215 BAMAPOUR 14 (B,F,G,S) (D Charlesworth) M Pipe 8-11-2 ... A P McCoy 114
604 13-266 GOLDINGO 21 (CD,F,G,S) (C Price) C M Price 11-10-10 ... R Johnson 89
605 541-26 DARK KESTREL 17 (B,D,S) (Mrs J Mayo) C Mann 4-10-4 ... J Magee 104
606 313F41 BRUSH WITH TIME 21 (S) (W Peto) Mrs S Williams 6-10-0 ... M Batchelor (5) 114

Long handicap: Brush With Time 9-7.

BETTING: 5-2 Hay Dance, 3-1 Papua, 7-2 Bamapour, 6-1 Dark Kestrel, 7-1 Goldingo, 8-1 Brush With Time.

1997: NINE O THREE 8-11-5 A Thornton (8-1) A Hobbs 7 ran

Papua 19l 4th of 6 to Real Estate in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously 8l 2nd of 7 to Char-Yo in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Bamapour 9½l 5th of 10 to Harry in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good), previously beat Keep Me In Mind 4l in 9-runner claiming hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft). Goldingo 17l 6th of 8 to Easter Ross in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft) with Hay Dance (2lb worse off) fell. Dark Kestrel 29l 6th of 9 to Antiguan Flyer in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good), previously 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Nobloy in handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m, soft). Brush With Time beat Red Guard 3l in 11-runner novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft).

PAPUA was unsuited by a slow early pace at Ascot last time and can return to form

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Miss V Williams	3	7	42.9	J Culloty	5	19	26.3
Miss H Knight	9	37	24.3	A P McCoy	24	125	19.2
P Hobbs	25	107	23.4	B Fenton	7	43	16.3
N Henderson	7	30	23.3	N Williamson	7	43	16.3
G McCourt	4	18	22.2	C Maude	15	97	15.5
M Pipe	43	218	19.7	M A Fitzgerald	11	72	15.3
N Babbage	4	22	18.2	R Johnson	5	37	13.5
A Hobbs	3	20	15.0	G Bradley	3	24	12.5
G Edwards	5	37	13.5	T Dascombe	12	108	11.1
N Hawke	3	26	11.5	R Dunwoody	7	67	10.4

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Ludlow

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 6 winners from 13 runners, 46.2%; D Nicholson, 20 from 64, 31.3%; M Pipe, 25 from 105, 23.8%; A Streeter, 3 from 13, 23.1%; R Curtis, 5 from 23, 21.7%; P Hobbs, 11 from 67, 16.4%; N Twiston-Davies, 14 from 94, 14.9%; I Williams, 4 from 27, 14.8%; A Carroll, 5 from 38, 13.2%; D Burchell, 5 from 43, 11.6%.

JOCKEYS: A Maguire, 19 winners from 94 rides, 20.2%; D J Burchell, 5 from 32, 15.6%; R Massey, 7 from 54, 13.0%; C Llewellyn, 9 from 72, 12.5%; X Aizpuru, 3 from 29, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

Market Rasen

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 25 winners from 110 runners, 22.7%; Mrs S Lamyman, 6 from 28, 21.4%; T Easterby, 7 from 33, 21.2%; M Wilkinson, 3 from 17, 17.6%; J J O'Neill, 8 from 49, 16.3%; P R Webber, 3 from 23, 13.0%; A Streeter, 3 from 24, 12.5%; M W Easterby, 8 from 72, 11.1%; K Morgan, 13 from 124, 10.5%.

JOCKEYS: R Farrant, 8 winners from 38 rides, 21.1%; L Wyer, 19 from 100, 19.0%; W Marston, 11 from 59, 18.6%; J Osborne, 6 from 34, 17.6%; P Niven, 18 from 106, 17.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 10 from 63, 15.9%; F Leahy, 11 from 72, 15.3%.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

1.00 Sefton Blake. 1.30 Mr Busby. 2.00 BARONCELLI (nap). 2.30 Fen Terrier. 3.00 Selberry. 3.30 Legend Of Love.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES) — SIS

1.00 DEREK CHARLES AUDI CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,534: 2m 3f) (10 runners)

1 2F00 DADDY'S POLLY 85 (G) B Llewellyn 4-11-11 ... R McGrath
2 640 EPIGRAM 129 D Carroll 5-11-4 ... A C Coyle
3 000- EIN TRESOR 116F B Llewellyn 4-11-0 ... Michael Brennan
4 0603 WESTERN CHIEF 14 D Williams 4-10-6 ... E Byrne (3)
5 20-P FATHER EDDIE 165 M Sowersby 4-10-6 ... M H Naughton
6 0P-0 AMAZING SAIL 15 (F) Miss K Milligan 5-10-4 ... G Lee
7 8-55 SEFTON BLAKE 19 M Meagher 4-10-1 ... C McCormack
8 3323 BALMORAL PRINCESS 7 (F) D McCain 5-10-0 ... S Durack
9 0054 SQUIRE'S OCCASION 8 (B,F) R Ford 5-10-0 ... N Horrocks
10 0050 HIGHFIELD PET 42 A J Lockwood 5-10-0 ... L Cooper (5)

3-1 Western Chief, 4-1 Sefton Blake, 9-2 Balmoral Princess, 5-1 Squire's Occasion, 8-1 Epigram, Father Eddie, 10-1 Amazing Sail, 20-1 others.

1.30 COME RACING ON BOXING DAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,029: 2m 1f 110yd) (8)

1 45-1 HARDACRE 15 (S) T Tate 4-11-4 ... R Garritty
2 0-21 MR BUSBY 16 (CD,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 ... P Niven
3 0-34 BLACK BULLET 13 A Streeter 5-10-12 ... T Eley
4 000 CURTAINSATCHOPWELL 15 T Easterby 4-10-12 ... L Wyer
5 265- PENROSE LAD 216 P R Webber 8-10-12 ... J Osborne
6 65-3 SUMO 16 Mrs S Lamyman 5-10-12 ... R Farrant
7 000- JEANANN 303 A Morgan 5-10-7 ... A S Smith
8 -803 PRO VERITATE 40 C Thornton 5-10-7 ... M Foster

2-1 Mr Busby, 3-1 Penrose Lad, 7-2 Hardacre, 7-1 Sumo, 10-1 Black Bullet, Pro Veritate, 20-1 Curtainsatchopwell, 33-1 Jeanann.

2.00 CLUGSTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,300: 3m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 2-11 NOOSA SOUND 12 (G,S) L Lungo 8-12-0 ... R Supple
2 P3-6 BAYLINE STAR 14 (S) Miss S Baxter 8-11-10 ... Gary Lyons
3 /P-P CALL THE SHOTS 10 (D,F,S) J Wade 9-11-4 ... R McGrath
4 2-21 BARONCELLI 9 (S) M Wilkinson 8-10-2 (7ex) ... W Marston
5 23/2 CULLANE LAKE 26 (G,S) Miss K Milligan 8-10-0 ... F Leahy
6 -440 MAJORITY MAJOR 21 (CD,G,S) J Wade 9-10-0 ... A S Smith
7 3-PF SILLARS STALKER 26 (F,G,S) Mrs S Wilkinson 10-10-0 ... G Lee
8 1-6P DEEL QUAY 26 (C,S) Mrs J Buckley 7-10-0 ... C McCormack (5)
9 -040 HEAVENLY CITIZEN 15 (B,F,S) J Gledson 10-10-0 ... K Johnson
10 2-6U GREY GORDEN 10 (G,S) R Curtis 10-10-0 ... S Durack
11 3244 WILLIE WANNABE 16 (S) M Chapman 8-10-0 ... W Worthington

6-4 Noosa Sound, 4-1 Baroncelli, 11-2 Sillars Stalker, 13-2 Cullane Lake, 8-1 Bayline Star, 16-1 Majority Major, Deel Quay, 20-1 others.

2.30 TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) / EBF MARES NOVICES CHASE (QUALIFIER) (£3,522: 2m 1f 110yd) (4)

1 0335 DOWN THE YARD 17 (D,G) M Chapman 5-10-10 ... W Worthington
2 4-24 FEN TERRIER 30 (BF,F,G,S) F Murtagh 6-10-10 ... A Dobbin
3 41-4 LIPPY LOUISE 21 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-10 ... P Niven
4 00-P ROYAL CEILIDH 7 D Williams 5-10-10 ... G F Ryan (3)

8-13 Fen Terrier, 13-8 Lippy Louise, 12-1 Down The Yard, 50-1 Royal Ceilidh.

3.00 ROBERT PEAK HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,798: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 B221 JESSICA ONE 8 (B) Mrs M Reveley 7-12-0 ... M H Naughton (5)
2 15-P NIGHT DANCE 173 (CD,G) K Morgan 6-11-8 ... A S Smith
3 3-22 FAIR AND FANCY 14 (BF,G,S) Miss K Milligan 7-11-7 ... F Leahy
4 0301 TIME FOR A GLASS 10 (S) M Wilkinson 5-10-11 (6ex) ... W Marston
5 6556 SHAHRANI 1 (CD,F) M Chapman 6-10-10 ... W Worthington
6 15-4 GRATE BRITISH 12 (CD,S) J Allen 6-10-8 ... Gary Lyons
7 -501 SELBERRY 6 (D,G) E L James 4-10-0 ... J R Kavanagh

9-4 Selberry, 3-1 Jessica One, Fair And Fancy, 5-1 Time For A Glass, 12-1 Shahrani, 14-1 Night Dance, 16-1 Grate British.

3.30 JOHN SMITHS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,408: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 0-31 PASSING DANGER 18 (S) Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 11-5 ... F M Berry
2 ALRABYAH 113F K Morgan 10-12 ... A S Smith
3 P CULTURED KING 12 (B) M W Easterby 10-12 ... R Garritty
4 3 I'M TEF 8 T Easterby 10-12 ... L Wyer
5 U44 JAGO 8 M W Easterby 10-12 ... E Callaghan
6 62 LEGEND OF LOVE 14 B Llewellyn 10-12 ... Michael Brennan
7 P MOON QUEST 30 K Morgan 10-12 ... S Durack
8 -063 SENTRY DUTY 14 Mrs V Ward 10-12 ... W Marston
9 SHAMROCK EXPRESS R Johnson 10-12 ... K Johnson
10 264 THANKS KEITH 26 (B) J J O'Neill 10-12 ... L Cooper (7)
11 6 THE GAMBOLLER 12 M Sowersby 10-12 ... A Dobbin
12 0 GRACIE GREY 26 Mrs S Lamyman 10-7 ... R Farrant
13 44 HELENES HILL 14 J L Harris 10-7 ... L O'Hara
14 2 TENDER TOUCH 26 Miss K Milligan 10-7 ... F Leahy

7-2 Passing Danger, 9-2 Legend Of Love, 11-2 Sentry Duty, Tender Touch, 8-1 I'm Tef, Thanks Keith, 16-1 Helenes Hill, 16-1 others.

LUDLOW

THUNDERER

12.40 Desert Power. 1.10 Ambidextrous. 1.40 Tree Creeper. 2.10 Obliterate. 2.40 Notable Exception. 3.10 Winsford Hill. 3.40 Happy Hussar.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

12.40 MICHAEL PERROTT NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,486: 2m) (18 runners)

1 LITTLE MISS LUCY 458F M Heaton-Ellis 4-11-7 ... G Tormey —
2 00-0 CLASSIC COLOURS 21 G Yardley 5-11-3 ... V Slattery —
3 0 VARNISHING DAY 31 Miss Z Davison 6-11-3 ... C Maude —
4 003- COBLE 241 D McCain 4-11-0 ... S Wynne 61
5 00F DANKATE 20 J Bradley 4-11-0 ... R Widger (5) —
6 0126 SAHHAR 82 (D,F) P Bevan 5-11-0 ... R Thornton [illegible]
7 R/PP ROYAL SWEEP 14 Dr P Pritchard 9-10-11 ... Dr P Pritchard —
8 306- TWO BILLS 412 A Streeter 4-10-11 ... J Goldstein (5) —
9 0-P0 CHINGACHGOOK 7 H Webb 4-10-8 ... L Harvey —
10 5-P5 DESERT POWER 14 D Burchell 9-10-8 ... D J Burchell 60
11 P0-5 FORMIDABLE FLAME 23 G Ham 5-10-8 ... G Shenkin (5) —
12 2-0P COSY RIDE 16 (B) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-5 ... C Llewellyn 52
13 0FU0 LIGHTNING REBEL 14 P Hiatt 4-10-5 ... Mr S Stronge (7) —
14 /4-0 MONTONE 14 Mrs C Hicks 8-10-5 ... J Mogford (7) —
15 305P SELECT STAR 5 (B) G McCourt 4-10-5 ... R Studholme (5) 76
16 0634 STRETCHING 14 (BF) Mrs Williamson 5-10-5 ... Mark Smith (7) 75
17 :00 CONTRACT GIRL 19 P Bevan 4-10-3 ... R Massey —
18 05-5 MISTY RAIN 9F J Spearing 4-10-0 ... A Maguire 76

11-4 Desert Power, 5-1 Sahhar, 11-2 Stretching, 6-1 Formidable Flame, Misty Rain, 8-1 Cosy Ride, 9-1 Lightning Rebel, 20-1 others.

1.10 SHROPSHIRE BUILDING SUPPLIES CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,976: 2m) (12)

1 012- NOBEL LAD 220 (BF,S) M Pipe 4-11-10 ... G Supple 86
2 R0-3 AMBIDEXTROUS 19 (D,S) E Alston 6-11-7 ... L Cummins 83
3 1U/2 DUBAI FALCON 28 (D,F) R Dickin 7-11-6 ... X Aizpuru 91
4 0446 PUNKAH 7 (B,D,F,G,S) G McCourt 5-11-5 ... D Ford [illegible]
5 -011 CADBURY CASTLE 6 (CD,G,S) G Charles-Jones 4-11-0 (7ex) ... R Studholme (3) 89
6 0-2F ROYAL THEN 13 (CD,G) J Neville 5-10-10 ... P Morris (3) 89
7 3506 STORM TIGER 12 (V,D,G) S Mellor 7-10-9 ... E Husband 101
8 1322 WINDY VALLEY 6 (B,G) P Hobbs 5-10-6 ... R Widger (3) 100
9 4-51 LITTLE SERENA 63 (C,F,G) P Ford 8-10-4 ... D McPhail (3) 101
10 5/05 FENCER'S QUEST 22 J Tuck 5-10-0 ... H Oliver (3) 71
11 /FP0 DAYTONA BEACH 22 (D,F) J Mullins 8-10-0 ... J Goldstein (3) —
12 -605 YONDER STAR 22 G R Smith 6-10-0 ... R Massey 37

7-2 Nobel Lad, 6-1 Punkah, Cadbury Castle, 7-1 Ambidextrous, Windy Valley, 8-1 Dubai Falcon, Royal Then, Little Serena, 12-1 others.

1.40 MARSTONS PEDIGREE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,696: 2m 4f) (13)

1 -22F NOISY MINER 21 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-10 ... A Maguire 89
2 5-U3 TREE CREEPER 30 A Turnell 6-11-10 ... L Harvey [illegible]
3 0-23 GO GO HENRY 28 (BF,S) R Alner 6-11-5 ... R Thornton 98
4 43-5 BAY FAIR 54 (G) M R Bosley 6-11-1 ... G Tormey 90
5 4-5U SEABROOK LAD 21 (F) C Morlock 7-11-7 ... J A McCarthy 66
6 3U4- BLATANT OUTBURST 250F (F,G) Miss S Wilton 8-10-10 ... D J Burchell —
7 2F-U FORTRIA ROSIE DAWN 7 Miss V Williams 8-10-10 ... S Kelly (5) —
8 12/6 CLOD HOPPER 28 (D,F) I Williams 8-10-9 ... R Walley 46
9 2PF- WREN WARBLER 308 (S) Mrs Robeson 8-10-9 ... M Richards 112
10 351F BUILDER BOY 6 (G) S Brookshaw 8-10-8 ... C Llewellyn 101
11 -POP INCH CHAMPION 28 A Carroll 6-10-4 ... C Maude 107
12 63-P JILLS JOY 16 (B) A Streeter 7-10-1 ... J Goldstein (5) 83
13 0-69 IDIOM 17 (F) D Gandolfo 11-10-0 ... S Wynne 84

5-2 Fortria Rosie Dawn, 4-1 Noisy Miner, Tree Creeper, 5-1 Go Go Henry, 10-1 Wren Warbler, Builder Boy, 16-1 Clod Hopper, 20-1 others.

2.10 P & T JONES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,444: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

1 31P6 ONEFORWILLIE 8 (G) P Bowen 5-12-0 ... C Llewellyn 58
2 435 CASTLE OWEN 216 (BF,G) D Nicholson 6-11-5 ... R Thornton 68
3 -285 L'IDEFIX 24 (G) T George 6-11-4 ... Mr R Forristal (7) 43
4 3123 MINNISAM 20 (CD,F,G) G Ham 5-11-1 ... P Holley 81
5 -234 HIGHLAND JACK 12 (B,D,G) A Turnell 8-10-13 ... R Walley 91
6 2R53 YOU'RE AGOODUN 40 (B) M Pipe 6-10-11 ... C Maude [illegible]
7 4083 FLAHIVE'S FIRST 6 (G) R J Price 4-10-9 ... A Maguire 89
8 2-30 STRAY HARMONY 13 (G) R Smith 8-10-4 ... J Goldstein (5) 63
9 2-00 SURPRISE GUNNER 14 Mrs M Jones 8-10-3 ... M Richards 63
10 3-13 LATE ENCOUNTER 16 (F,S) R Brown 7-10-1 ... S Kelly (5) 103
11 6-42 OBLITERATE 25 (BF) I Williams 6-10-1 ... G Tormey 99
12 0540 FAIR FINNISH 34 W Clay 4-10-0 ... S Wynne 44
13 -266 SWING BAR 16 J Bradley 5-10-0 ... R Widger (5) 71
14 P-00 CURRACLOE ROSE 24 (B) C Morlock 5-10-0 ... P Ryan (7) 48
15 6F/0 SLAPY DAM 17 C A Smith 6-10-0 ... V Slattery —
16 4UPR CHARLIESMEDARLIN 100 (G) Mrs B Waring 7-10-0 ... E Byrne —

7-2 Obliterate, 4-1 You're Agoodun, 6-1 Castle Owen, 7-1 Minnisam, 8-1 Flahive's First, Late Encounter, 10-1 Highland Jack, 14-1 others.

2.40 HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES TROPHY AMATEURS' HANDICAP CHASE (£2,736: 3m) (9)

1 /52-2 TOO PLUSH 33 (F,G,S) A Turnell 9-12-0 ... C Rae (5) 107
2 6350 GALE AHEAD 83 (D,G) P Pritchard 8-11-8 ... Dr P Pritchard (7) —
3 /4254 NAME OF OUR FATHER 23 (BF,D,F,G,S) P Bowen 5-10-13 ... Miss P Jones (5) 94
4 362- DADDY DANCER 226 P Ford 7-10-9 ... J D Moore (7) —
5 604 NOTABLE EXCEPTION 12 (D,G,S) R Dickin 9-10-6 ... J Smith (7) —
6 /2-16 LETS TWIST AGAIN 75 (G) M Sheppard 8-10-5 ... R Forristal (7) 50
7 5-05 JASON'S BOY 12 (G) J Bradley 8-10-0 ... Miss E J Jones (7) [illegible]
8 4426 INCH EMPEROR 28 (C,D,F) A Carroll 8-10-0 ... S Stronge (7) 119
9 -5U3 TELLAPORKY 7 R Simpson 9-10-0 ... J Owen (7) 97

3-1 Too Plush, 7-2 Name Of Our Father, Lets Twist Again, 7-1 Notable Exception, Jason's Boy, 8-1 Daddy Dancer, 14-1 Inch Emperor, 20-1 others.

3.10 HUGHES CATERERS 90TH BIRTHDAY NOVICES CHASE (£2,775: 2m) (6)

1 2-41 FERRUFINO 17 (CD,F,G) P Rich 10-11-5 ... C Llewellyn 102
2 1-24 CIRCUS STAR 25 (D,G) D Nicholson 5-10-12 ... A Maguire [illegible]
3 235- DOVETTO 212 (S) C J Price 9-10-12 ... R Thornton —
4 2-46 RIVER WYE 61 (G) G Yardley 6-10-12 ... V Slattery —
5 0/ SPIRITED STATEMENT 1107 M Sheppard 8-10-12 ... G Tormey —
6 -223 WINSFORD HILL 17 (D,F,G) I Williams 7-10-12 ... R Walley 93

1-2 Circus Star, 3-2 Winsford Hill, 5-1 Ferrufino, 16-1 River Wye, 20-1 Dovetto, 50-1 Spirited Statement.

3.40 OLDFIELD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,350: 2m) (12)

1 BRAMBLINGS BOY N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4 ... C Llewellyn —
2 0 EFFRONTERY 82 Mrs M Jones 5-11-4 ... M Richards 46
3 HAPPY HUSSAR H Daly 5-11-4 ... S Wynne —
4 LUCKY LAMBRINI Mrs L Williamson 4-11-4 ... Mark Smith (7) —
5 0-4 NEVER SAD NEWSBOY 42 J J Quinn 5-11-4 ... G Tormey 27
6 4 NO TALE TO TELL 23 D Nicholson 4-11-4 ... R Massey 67
7 PUZZLEMAN D Caro 5-11-4 ... M Sharratt —
8 00-2 TILT AND TURN 18 P Hobbs 4-11-4 ... R Widger (5) [illegible]
9 0-0 BONNET 28 R Curtis 4-10-13 ... J Leach —
10 5-0 PHAR AND AWAY 37 Countess Goess-Saurau 4-10-13 ... Sophie Mitchell 65
11 0 TALKING IN RIDDLES 28 W Jenks 5-10-13 ... V Slattery 64
12 40 TEENOMISS 37 A Carroll 5-10-13 ... A Maguire 57

9-4 Tilt And Turn, 3-1 Bramblings Boy, 9-2 No Tale To Tell, 6-1 Happy Hussar, 10-1 Never Sad Newsboy, 14-1 Talking In Riddles, 20-1 Bonnet, Teenomiss, 25-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ludlow: 12.40 Cosy Ride. 1.10 Punkah. 1.40 Jills Joy. 2.10 Curracloe Rose. Market Rasen: 3.30 Cultured King

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Leicester

Going: good (chase course), soft, heavy in places (hurdles)

1.00 (2m hdle) 1, BOWCLIFFE COURT (S Durack, 13-8 fav); 2, Suranom (J F Titley, 9-1); 3, High Low (Miss E J Jones, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Enny (4th), 6 Tumil House (5th), 7 Miss Ondee, 33 Shahrani (6th). 7 ran. 2l, 13l, 11l, 3l, 13l. J Akehurst at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £3.50. DF: £25.40. CSF: £12.32.

1.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, LETS BE FRANK (S Durack, 2-1 fav); 2, Native Player (N Williamson, 11-2); 3, Reaganesque (R Farrant, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Tristram's Image (5th), 11-2 Shu Gaa, Symphony's Son (4th), 20 Ferryhill (6th), 33 Fontaine Fables, 40 Time To Partez, 50 Belasis Boy, 100 Cumberland Youth, Gavaskar. 12 ran. 11l, 6l, 13l, 5l, dist. N Chance at Lambourn. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £10.30. CSF: £11.83.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, WELSH MOUNTAIN (S Durack, 11-8 fav, Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Inclination (J Tizzard, 11-4); 3, Fabulon (G Supple, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 10 Lord Frederick (6th), Old Gold N Tan (5th), 16 Remember Star (4th). 6 ran. 7l, 1¼, 7l, dist, 7l. K Morgan at Melton Mowbray. Tote: £1.90; £1.90, £2.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.57.

2.30 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, AUTO PILOT (M A Fitzgerald, 8-1); 2, Frazer Island (B Fenton, 13-2); 3, King Of The Burren (S Durack, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 jt-fav Debt Of Honor (5th), Sister Rosza (f), 15-2 Merlins Dream (6th), 12 Coverdale Lane (4th), 14 Distinctive. 8 ran. NR: Pennyman, Swing Quartet. 1l, 14l, 8l, 21l, 1¼. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £7.40; £1.90, £3.30, £1.40. DF: £30.00. Trifecta: £356.90. CSF: £49.90. Tricast: £293.44.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, TEMPESTUOUS LADY (M A Fitzgerald, 7-2); 2, My Desperado (Mr C R Weaver, 4-1); 3, Valiant Memory (S Durack, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Galb (4th), 4 Everything's Rosy (5th), 9 Swift Maiden, 11 Oxbane, 25 Daughter In Law, Forest Mill, 33 Mill Orchid (6th). 10 ran. 8l, 9l, 2l, 4l, 9l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £6.00; £2.50, £1.60, £3.30. DF: £15.20. CSF: £18.48.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, TEAATRAL (N Williamson, 11-2); 2, Royale Angela (R Johnson, 11-2); 3, Quelque Chose (D Salter, 11-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Molsum (6th), 11-2 Captain Jack (4th), 20 Winn's Pride (5th). 6 ran. NR: Majors Law. 6l, 3l, 13l, 7l, dist. C Egerton at Chaddleworth. Tote: £5.60; £3.00, £1.60. DF: £4.80. CSF: £22.37. Tricast: £51.33. Knock Leader (5-1) withdrawn, not under starters orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 15p in pound.

Jackpot: £13,170.70.
Placepot: £311.80. Quadpot: £35.90.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (7f) 1, Done And Dusted (P Bradley, 9-2); 2, Jazznic (3-1 fav); 3, Magique Etoile (7-1). 14 ran. Sh hd, 1½l. R Brotherton. Tote: £4.70; £1.20, £2.30, £1.60. DF: £8.30. CSF: £16.32.

12.40 (7f) 1, Meadow Leader (P Roberts, 14-1); 2, Sharp Shuffle (7-2); 3, Ablaal (7-1). Barrier Ridge 5-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Shanlung. Hd, 2½l. C Dondi. Tote: £19.20; £2.80, £1.10, £3.10. DF: £22.40. CSF: £57.01.

1.10 (1m) 1, Love Diamonds (G Bardwell, 6-1); 2, Oo Ee Be (8-1); 3, Violet (7-2). Sir Perse 3-1 fav. 12 ran. ¾l, 1l. M Johnston. Tote: £5.70; £2.40, £4.30, £1.40. DF: £25.50. CSF: £43.10. Tricast: £149.89.

1.40 (1m 2f) 1, Darzino (R Price, 4-5 fav); 2, Unreal City (15-2); 3, First Master (13-2). 7 ran. 5l, 6l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £1.70; £1.40, £3.60. DF: £7.90. CSF: £6.95.

2.10 (7f) 1, Ivor's Deed (Dane O'Neill, 10-1); 2, Adirpour (9-2); 3, Castle Ashby Jack (8-1). Kolby 4-1 fav. 13 ran. Nk, 1¾l. P Evans. Tote: £6.40; £2.40, £2.10, £2.20. DF: £36.40. CSF: £49.10.

2.40 (1m 2f) 1, Byzantium (W Ryan, 4-1 fav); 2, Pas De Memoires (10-1); 3, Il Destino (25-1). 13 ran. NR: Johnny Staccato. 1¼l, 1l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £5.50; £2.00, £4.40, £5.70. DF: £33.10. CSF: £44.26. Tricast: £851.41.

3.10 (7f) 1, Riffi (A Clark, 11-2); 2, Rosin Splendour (10-1); 3, Best Quest (9-4 fav). 11 ran. 1½l, 2l. R Ingram. Tote: £5.20; £1.70, £2.80, £1.30. DF: £35.80. CSF: £54.68. Tricast: £148.17.

3.40 (7f) 1, Butrinto (A Polli, 9-2); 2, Kosevo (3-1 fav); 3, Daynabee (14-1). 9 ran. NR: Caversfield. Nk, 3l. J Pearce. Tote: £6.00; £1.70, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £9.10. CSF: £17.01. Tricast: £161.02.

Placepot: £69.00. Quadpot: £26.10.

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Skiing on slippery slope without Tomba


Tomba's winning style, on and off the slopes, made him the No 1 draw in skiing around the world

David Powell asks the charismatic Olympic hero whether he believes his sport will ever see his like again

SOME sportsmen earn the right to be disparaging about their successors, so we sit up and listen when John McEnroe complains about today's tennis players, as he did to Chris Evans on *TFI Friday* last week. "I was watching Utah on television and it is different without Tomba — a bit empty," the voice at the other end of the telephone said. The voice, no less, of Alberto Tomba. And so we listen.

Tomba, winner of three Olympic skiing gold medals and 50 World Cup races, announced his retirement from competitive skiing two months ago. "Somebody told me we need to wait 50 years for the next Tomba," the great man said. Was that somebody right? "I am waiting for maybe my son," he replied. A long wait then, given that Tomba "La Bomba" has no bambino yet. The Italian may have been joking but the point is worth making: skiing may have to wait a long, long time for his like again.

Trying to sum up in one paragraph Tomba's antics and achievements would be as hopeless as attempting the same with McEnroe. A taste, therefore: it has been reported that he was fined in court for throwing a trophy at a photographer; that he tried to invade the ice at the 1988 Olympics to give Katarina Witt flowers and ask her for a date; that he walked out on a race when officials reversed the starting order for the second run.

After the opening races in the United States, the men's World Cup circuit crosses to Europe this weekend, to Val d'Isère and on to Sestriere on Monday, where the loss of Tomba will be felt like a family bereavement. Sestriere was where Tombamania began in 1987. His victories there would put 50,000 on the sales of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

"This is a huge loss for world sport as a whole," Gustav Thoeni, Tomba's former coach, said when the retirement was announced. The view is supported by Sarah Lewis, the International Ski Federation director, though without the suggestion that he is irreplaceable.

"Everybody will be eternally grateful for what Tomba has done for skiing, as we were with Ingemar Stenmark and Franz Klammer," Lewis said. "But I am quite sure somebody will emerge, a charismatic character or several in the different disciplines. They know there is an opportunity to say, 'Look at me, I can be a great star too'." Unfortunately for Herman Maier, the Austrian who is the front-runner to fill the Tomba void, the "look at me" cry last month was heard by the Sheriff of Aspen.

The story goes that Maier, Andreas Schifferer, his Austria team-mate, and a ski serviceman had drunk too much one night and borrowed a bike. On being stopped by the police, Maier tried to escape on foot, only to slip on the ice. After being cautioned, he faces a fine by the Austrian ski federation. The new Tomba? Sounds promising.

Tomba, though, will take some impressing. "They asked me what I think of the new Tomba — Maier, the Austrian guy," he said. "I said I met him for five minutes, but he is different. They loved me because I was a crazy guy. They need a guy like me. It is not easy."

As *Ski Sunday* returns to our television screens, Julian Tutt, the BBC's senior commentator, said: "I do not see anybody on the horizon matching Tomba in terms of charismatic playboy image. Maier is an electrifying skier, winning in downhill, super G, as well as giant slalom. In pure skiing terms, he could be as, if not more, successful than Tomba.

"Maier is more in the mould of Klammer, in that he could be a great star by virtue of what he is doing on the mountains. I would put Tomba in the same bracket as Seve Ballesteros — people who walk into a room and have a massive presence. You know they are there and you want to be associated with them."

Of late, Tomba has been trying to impress in a movie. Tomba plays a police escort to an alleged killer. Aged 31, and after 12 years on the World Cup circuit, the desire to ski had gone.

"I won the last slalom of last season in Crans-Montana and that moment was the best time to stop skiing," he said. "I had won everything and I wanted to change my life. My body was OK — I can win for five years — but I was tired of the schedule."

Tomba feels that the White Circus makes too many demands on its performers now, moving from one country to the next and back again. "They need one week in Switzerland, women and men together, the next week in France and the next week in Italy, like tennis maybe," he said.

Like tennis? McEnroe says that tennis is "a great game that's in a mess". Tomba cannot be serious.

SNOOKER

Williams is caught in new war of words

FROM PHIL YATES IN BINGEN

ALL too regularly this year, a leading tournament has been played against a distracting backdrop of internal strife involving the ruling regime of the sport's governing body and the large contingent of players and managers attempting to remove it. The German Masters is no exception.

The latest flashpoint in the political wranglings that have raged unabated since the dismissal of Jim McKenzie as chief executive of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) on December 1, 1997 concerns alleged comments made by Rex Williams, the chairman of the WPBSA.

An article in a tabloid newspaper on Monday claimed that Williams, 65 — who is not the man for the job, according to many leading players — described Steve Davis, recognised as one of the finest ambassadors the game has produced, as "clueless and useless". Dennis Taylor, who, along with Davis and Terry Griffiths, is standing for election to the WPBSA board of directors later this month, is mentioned in a piece that appeared in the same publication yesterday, along with Stephen Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan.

In the article, which has led Ian Doyle, the manager of all three players, and Hendry to take "the necessary legal action" against Williams, the WPBSA chariman reportedly describes Taylor as "pathetic and contemptible". He also predicts that Hendry "will never win anything major again, not while he's got this problem with Doyle".

Hendry, who won the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix on Sunday, said: "For Rex Williams to suggest that there is a problem between Ian and I is utter nonsense. Williams is incapable of uniting the various factions and should resign immediately."

Doyle has also been angered by Williams allegedly saying of O'Sullivan: "I can't help it if his mother and father are in jail." O'Sullivan, whose father is serving a life sentence for murder, withdrew from the recent United Kingdom championship suffering from stress and is also absent from the German Masters here.

"The attack on Stephen Hendry is bad enough, but to also attack Dennis Taylor and, particularly, Ronnie O'Sullivan at this time is disgusting," Doyle said. "All my clients are like family and any attacks on them will not be tolerated.

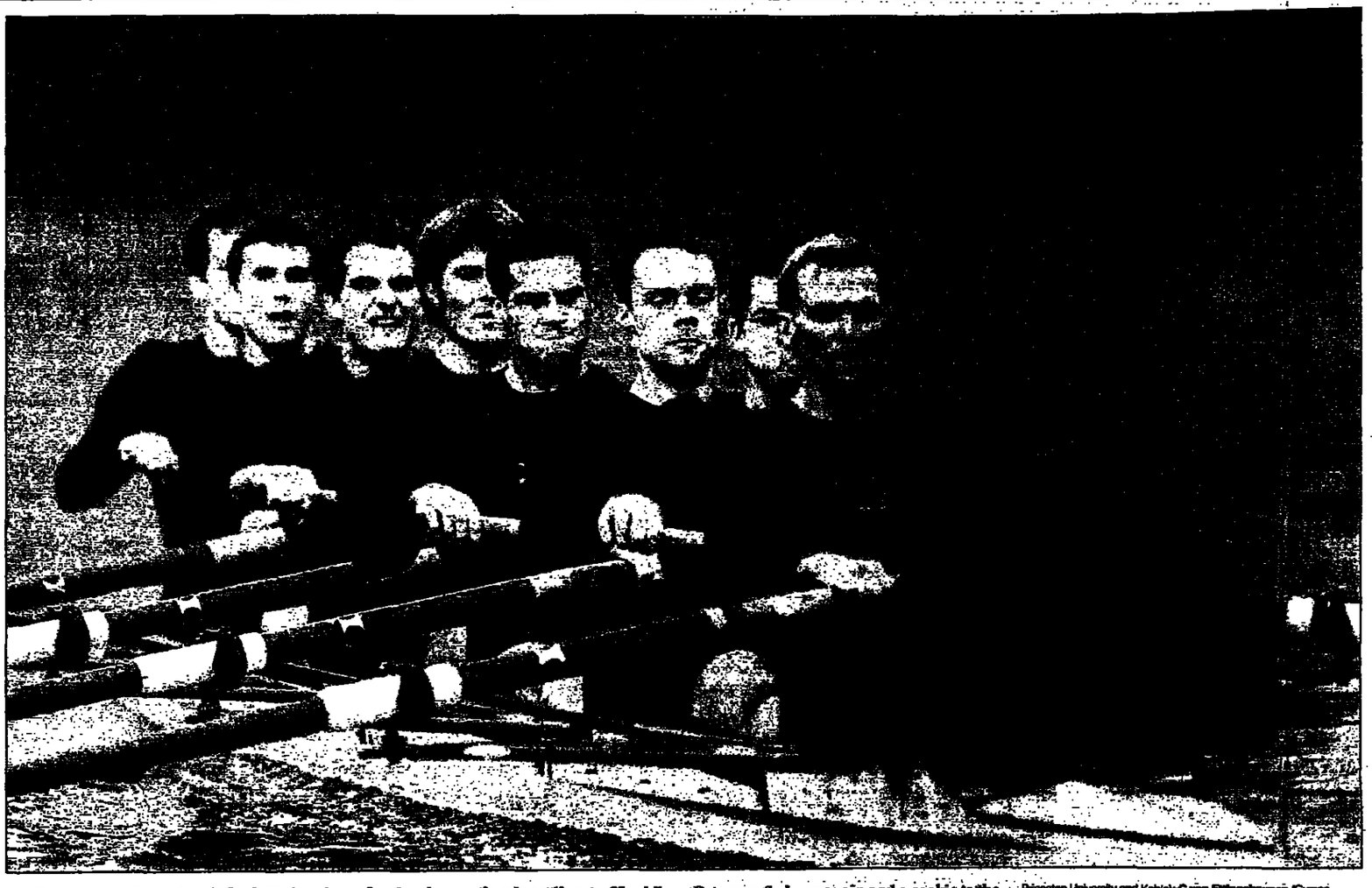
"Stephen and I have no problem whatsoever. Indeed, we will work together long after his cue has been put away for good. Dennis is the consummate professional and while Ronnie is recovering from depression, these comments clearly do not help his progress. I must also emphasise that his mother is not in prison."

The immediate concern for Davis here yesterday was his health. Suffering from flu symptoms and feeling "dreadful", the six-times world champion was whitewashed 5-0 by Alan McManus. The contest, despite its one-sided nature, took two hours and 43 minutes to reach its conclusion.

McManus, surprisingly beaten by Michael Holt, the world No 193, in the United Kingdom championship three weeks ago, potted brown, blue and pink to snatch a marathon first frame that lasted 42 minutes.

With the exception of the second frame, when McManus compiled a break of 62 consisting largely of low-value colours, the exchanges were scrappy in the extreme. Normally, that would not unduly worry Davis, but, after he squandered three clear-cut opportunities to win the third, he never looked likely to mount a fightback.

"I could see Steve had a total lack of confidence and that he was under the weather. I knew if I kept plugging away I'd get chances," McManus, who now meets Mark Williams in the quarter-finals, said. "He just wasn't with it but at least it's a win and I haven't had too many of those this season."


Pulling together: the Oxford University "Shakers" row to a five-length win over the "Movers" in the Trial Eights yesterday (Mike Rosewell writes). In contrast to the Cambridge trials on Monday, the Dark Blue crews had a splendid tussle to the Mile. "Movers" had Nick Robinson, the Oxford stroke this year, in his accustomed role. They took a marginal lead at the start, with "Shakers", stroked by Henrik Nilsson, a Sweden international, settling to 35 while Robinson kept his men two pips higher and held a lead of one-third of a length around the Fulham bend. "Shakers", though, had hit a lovely rhythm and pulled to within two feet by the Mile. The writing was on the wall as they eased into their favourable Harrods bend. "Shakers" had clear water, just, by Hammersmith Bridge and then swept away, their biggest trial being when Trevor Peterson, their coxswain and a rookie to the Tideway, had to perform an impressive swerve to avoid a launch, opposite St Paul's.

His crew were not fazed, however, and continued at 32-33, to win in 18min 40sec, much slower than Cambridge on Monday but on a much slacker tide.

SHAKERS: S J Williams (KCS Wimbledon and Worcester), bow; E S Brand (Bainbridge HS (US), Washington University and Hertford); D R Snow (St Paul's and Balliol); T H Ayer (Burlington HS (US), MIT and Worcester); M M Crotty (Carlisle HS (US), Princeton University and Keble); C von Ettingshausen (Gymnasium Gerresheim, Dusseldorf, Dortmund University and Keble), A J Lindsay* (Eton and Brasenose); L H Nilsson* (The Cathedral School, Lund, University of Lund and Hertford), stroke; T J Petersson (Lycee Cambridge, England, and Keble), cox.

MOVERS: C W Bordeau (Belmont Hill School (US), Princeton University and Hertford), bow; E W Foster (Eton and St Catherine's); A V Cooper (Eton and Lincoln); A M Crocker (Branksome CS, Canada, Princeton University and St Anne's); S W Lyall-Cottle (King's Chester, Shrewsbury, and Oriel); J B Roycroft* (Eton and Keble); C P Humphreys (President)* (Hampton and Oriel), N J Robinson* (Hampton and Lincoln), stroke; N J O'Donnell (St Joseph's, Buffalo (US), Rutgers University and Keble), cox.

* denotes a Blue.

SAILING: BRITON LYING IN THIRD PLACE AS AROUND ALONE FLEET ENCOUNTERS HIGH WINDS AND BIG SEAS

Golding stays calm in oil and troubled waters


Golding: only 40 miles adrift despite problems

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

JUST five days into the second leg from Cape Town to Auckland and the Around Alone fleet has already been through its first serious gale, with wind speeds in excess of 50 knots and big seas to match. The new leader in Class 1 is Giovanni Soldini in *FILA*, while in Class 2, Mike Garside, of Britain, still has *Magellan Alpha* out in front.

The Southern Ocean, and surviving it, is what makes this event and most of the skippers are talking about conservative tactics and fear as they fight to control downwind speed in their Finot-designed racing machines. In Class 1, skippers were averaging 15 knots of boatspeed with bursts of up to 30 knots on big surfs.

Mike Golding, in *Team Group 4*, is well in touch with the leaders and the Briton was the most southerly boat yesterday as the group continued south and east at a position just northwest of Prince Edward Island. Golding was 40 miles behind Soldini in third place with Isabelle Autissier, of France, in *PRB*, who has some concerns about her swing keel, about 20 miles ahead of him in second.

Golding reported that he had sailed fairly cautiously through the gale to see how the boat performed, though he is conscious that reasonably good speed is vital. He had slowed the boat early on only to find it was immediately knocked over by breaking waves. "I made rule one 'speed is you friend'," he said.

Once again Golding is battling problems that are making a challenging set of circumstances even harder. The alarm systems on his autopilots are not working properly, making it difficult to anticipate sudden changes of conditions and the risk of damage. Second, the caps on his spare fuel cans have failed, so the aft compartment is now awash with diesel.

"It's like a skating rink trying to do anything back aft and it won't take long for the diesel to travel around the boat and permeate everything. If there's one thing I hate, it's the smell of diesel — it gives me the worst headache," Golding said.

"Also it appears I have no sponges or cleaners — just one tiny bottle of washing-up liquid. This is going to be a joy to live with for 20 days."

No such troubles appear to be hampering Garside, who is about 137 miles astern of Golding but still leads Class 2 with a margin of 65 miles over J. P. Mouligne, of France, in *Cray Valley*. Garside will be delighted to have held on to the lead that he established from the start and seems to be benefiting from having taken a little whisky along with him on this leg.

Mouligne, who won the first leg, is taking time to get acclimatised in *Cray Valley*. "I am slowly getting into the race, but the first few days have been rough," he said. "It is not yet very cold, but it will get colder and colder as we keep on heading south in the next few days."

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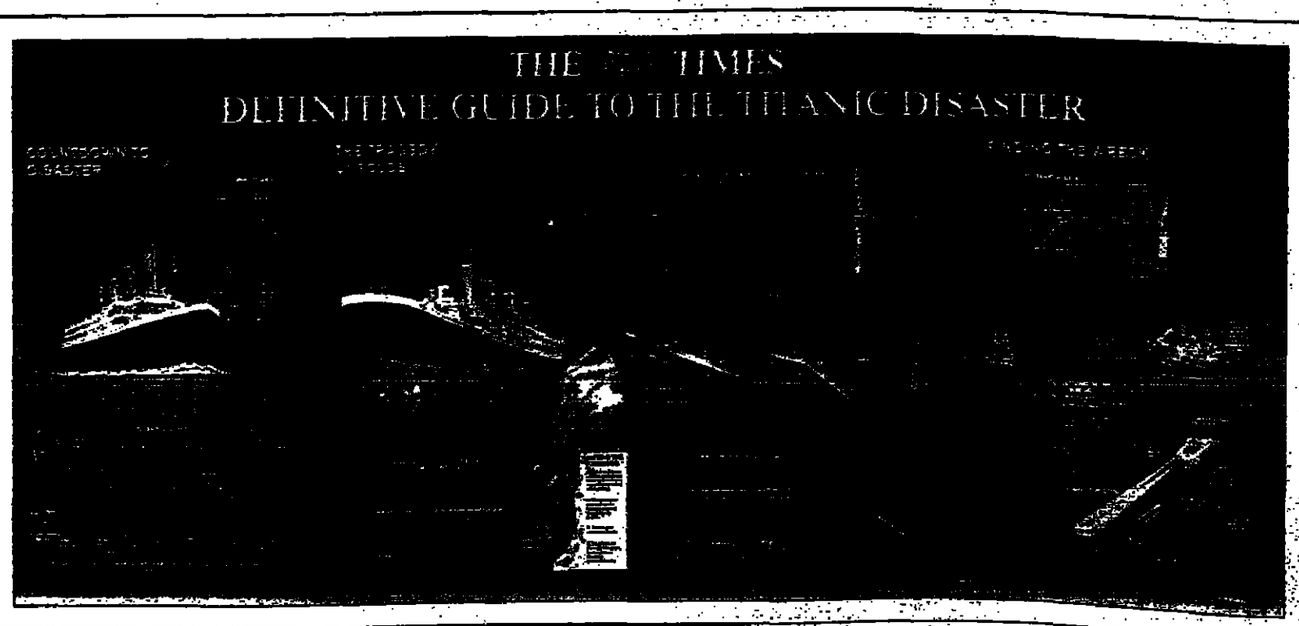
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SWIMMING

East Germany's tarnished medals spark new Olympic race

BY CRAIG LORD

ALL is clear on the surface: give Sharron Davies the gold medal that she should have won in the 400 metres medley at the 1980 Olympic Games, now we know that Petra Schneider was floating on a diet of anabolic steroids when she swam ten seconds faster than the British champion in Moscow.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will wade in murky waters in Lausanne this weekend when it confronts the ghost of its and East Germany's past. It will find the gold medal belonging to Schneider glistening deep in a Pandora's box of sporting deception that may be best left closed. Its contents are no longer a mystery; Schneider and others have faced their abusers across a courtroom in a domestic legal process that is in its infancy and has seen several coaches and doctors fined after admitting to having doped their charges.

It is hardly surprising that those who were beaten are now lining up to collect. Davies heads the charge for Britain, which was denied six gold, eight silver and 15 bronze medals by the East Germans. Fatima Whitbread, in the javelin in 1988, and Ann Osgerby, in the 100 metres butterfly, might, like Davies, have been Olympic champions. Osgerby might also have won gold in the medley relay while the crews in the rowing eights might have been crowned in 1976 and 1980.

There might also have been better medal positions for Steve Ovett in 1980 and Steve Cram in 1988, while Daley Thompson would have been within 22 points of a third successive Olympic victory instead of fourth. There would also have been an early bronze in Sally Gunnell's career.

Yet the IOC and its federations — many of which could be said to have encouraged East Germany by awarding a variety of prizes of eminence in the 1970s and 1980s — must peer through parochial claims to pyrrhic victories. Beyond the legalities of redistributing ill-gotten gains, there is a statistical nightmare that could produce an embarrassment of injustices.

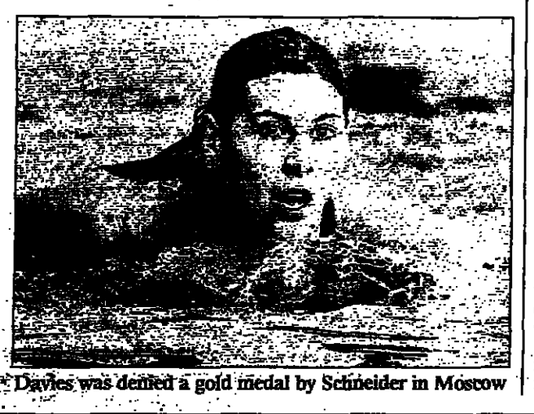
East Germans won 318 medals, including 124 golds, at the 1976, 1980 and 1988 Olympic Games, the era in which systematic doping became a fact of sporting life. If every one of those medals were taken back and handed down to the next in line, the runaway winners would be athletes from the former Soviet Bloc countries, many of whom were never tested and none of whom were ever called upon to provide out-of-competition tests.

A rewritten history would award former Soviet Bloc athletes 38 gold, 48 silver and 45 bronze medals, accounting for well over half of the "promotions" across all sports. In many instances it would be a case of "take out an East German, put in another east European, whose performances were doubted then and are doubted now, someone who may never have been tested". Such dangers may mean that the IOC removes East Germany while leaving all other results as they are.

The alternative is for the IOC to deal with isolated drugs cases that can be proven by documents that specifically name the athlete. This may redress a few balances but may also leave many cheats with medals in their pockets. It would also ask the question: how true is the new history that would be written?

Without the East Germans in Moscow, British women swimmers would have won three gold and five bronze medals, a result out of all proportion to their real world standing at the time, before and since, courtesy of the boycott of the Games by the United States and a weak Australian presence.

Within weeks of Davies's effort in Moscow, Tracey Caulkins, of the United States, swam six seconds faster. Some believe the boycott issue to be irrelevant while others, such as Michelle Ford and Nicole Stevenson, of Australia, have stated that they are not interested in having a devalued medal.



Davies was denied a gold medal by Schneider in Moscow

Rolph on crest of a wave

SARAH POTTER





Rolph has plenty to smile about and look forward to after her recent gold medal-winning successes. Photograph: Will Walker

Five medals, including two individual golds, made Susan Rolph Britain's most successful swimmer at the Commonwealth Games and another clutch of golds at a World Cup event in Brazil last month confirmed her glittering talent. When the European short-course championships get under way in Sheffield tomorrow it is likely that the 20-year-old Geordie will again be the sprint freestyler out in front.

The fame and fortune she claims to want may still be some way off, but nonetheless some unexpected accolades have been rolling in. "I swam really well to win three golds in Rio," she said. "But I was very surprised by all the attention when I got home, especially the letter from the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, congratulating me on my results. I've never had this kind of response before."

Rolph has, though, always been drawn to swimming. Her father, Wilf, helped to make his daughter into a water baby by taking her to the pool when he played water polo. "Dad claims he could tell I had this talent because by the age of two I was throwing off my armbands, wanting to go in by myself," she said. "I don't remember, and it's the time of your life when you're supposed to be fearless, but he says he used to throw me in the deep end and let me fight for myself."

She concedes that her mother, Maureen — who cannot swim — and the lifeguards might have been a little nervous, but by the age of seven she was eager to join the local Newburn Dolphins Swimming Club. "I did the normal route," she said. "Then lots of things started to happen and I was winning gold medals at the age-group nationals. To me I was just doing what I do best, but when I won eight golds in one year people were shocked. After that, when I was 13, I joined Newcastle because it was the biggest club."

It was there that Rolph met Ian Oliver, the coach with whom she continues to work. "Ian started training me straight away," she said. "We have a good relationship and I couldn't have achieved what I have without him. But we have good rows, too, when we both shout at one another."

Her schooldays were often no less stormy. "I didn't enjoy other sports when I was growing up and I hated school," she said. "Walbottle High were dead happy to have their name in the paper every time I achieved something in swimming but now, when I look back, I laugh about some of the things they said."

Falling asleep in classes did not make Rolph a favourite pupil. "They had a point, but when it came to Friday and I'd gone through a whole week of early-morning training, school and homework, it sometimes caught up with me," she said. "It did annoy me and I wish I'd had the bottle at the time to have got my point across."

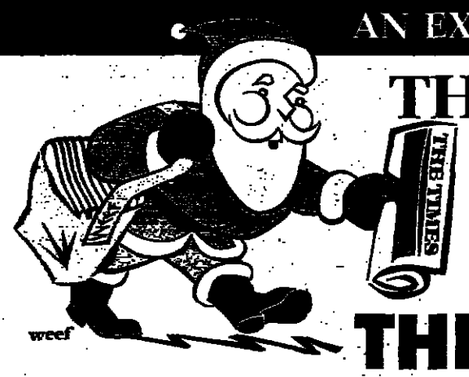
Chlorine-hardened eyes have seen this single-minded athlete develop into a genuine medal hope for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. "I really think that by then I'm going to be prepared big-time," she said. "I don't see why I shouldn't have a repeat of the Commonwealth Games at Olympic level. The Australians will be difficult, so too the Americans, but I believe I can do it."

Her punishing training routine leaves nothing to chance. A typical day means a two-hour swim session is under way by 5.30am, two hours' gym work begins at 11am and then it is back in the pool for another couple of hours in the afternoon. "It's so me and I've done it for so many years that I think I'd find it hard to stop," she said. "It's just my way of life."

Sadly, as the Chinese demonstrated at the world championships this year, banned substances have also become habitual for some. "It's frustrating because we're competing against it," Rolph said. "But Brits aren't into that so we leave them to it, and it's big satisfaction time when they get caught and their name is dragged down."

Rolph is enjoying seeing her name at the top of her sport. "I kept being told as a youngster that you don't get remembered for doing personal bests, only for winning," she said. "It's true, so every time I break a record and win it stands out for me. Right now, I'm in my own little bubble, my own little world, and I'm completely happy living for the now."

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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In August I gave this example of breaking up squeezes:

Dealer West — N-S game — Rubber bridge

	♠ AK72 ♡ K9 ♢ J763 ♣ Q97	
♠ 964 ♡ Q103 ♢ K ♣ K108653	N W E S	♠ 10853 ♡ – ♢ Q9852 ♣ AJ42
	♠ QJ ♡ AJ876542 ♢ A104 ♣ –	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1 D	Pass	2 H
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 H
Pass	3 S	Pass	4 C
Pass	4 H	Pass	6 H
All Pass			

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: six of spades.

West led the six of spades, dummy played low and East's ten was taken by declarer (Zia Mahmood) with the queen. At trick two he played a heart to dummy's king, and when the bad break showed up, continued with two more rounds of hearts. Now West played a club. On the run of the trumps East was squeezed in diamonds and spades. A spade continuation when West won his trump trick would have beaten the contract by breaking up the communication for the squeeze.

Several readers wrote to say Zia had played the hand incorrectly. One asked, "Are named celebrities immune from columnar censure?" Certainly not – on the whole I do not name lesser players who make instructive errors, but I 'out' the perpetrators if they are international class.

It would have been better for Zia to cash the ace of hearts at trick two. Then when he sees the bad break he plays off a second spade before crossing to dummy with a trump to continue with high spades. This line succeeds against all 3-0 trump breaks where the player with the long trump holds at least three spades. Zia's line would be the only successful one if East held three hearts and two or fewer spades, which is slightly less likely.

☐*The Times Book of Bridge 2*, featuring the best of Robert Sheehan's daily columns is now out. Order your copy from Chess & Bridge (369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR, tel: 0171 388 2404) who are offering 25% discount off all Batsford titles in December. The normal price is £7.99, post free for *Times* readers.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Smyslov succumbs

Efim Geller, who died in Moscow last month at 73, was one of the powerhouses of the Soviet School of Chess that dominated the game from 1948 until 1972. Apart from a fine score against world champions Bobby Fischer and Mikhail Botvinnik, Geller also defeated Vassily Smyslov (world champion 1957-1958) in brilliant style.

White: Efim Geller
Black: Vassily Smyslov
Candidates Tournament
Moscow 1965

Grunfeld defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	e4	Nxc3
6	bxc3	Bg7
7	Bc4	c5
8	Ne2	0-0
9	0-0	Nc6
10	Be3	Qc7
11	Rc1	Rd8
12	f4	e6
13	Kh1	b6
14	f5	Na5
15	Bd3	exf5
16	exf5	Bb7
17	Qd2	Re8
18	Ng3	Qc6
19	Rf2	Rad8
20	Bh6	Bh8
21	Qf4	Rd7
22	Ne4	c4
23	Bc2	Rde7
24	Rcf1	Rxe4
25	fxg6	f6
26	Qg5	Qd7
27	Kg1	Bg7
28	Rxf6	Rg4
29	gxh7+	Kh8
30	Bxg7+	Qxg7
31	Qxg4	Black resigns

White: Vassily Smyslov
Black: Efim Geller
USSR Championship Play-off
Moscow 1955

King's Indian defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	f3	0-0
6	Be3	e5
7	Nge2	c6
8	d5	cxd5
9	cxd5	Ne8
10	Qd2	f5
11	h3	Nd7
12	g3	Nb6
13	b3	f4
14	gxf4	exf4
15	Bf4	Nd7
16	h4	Ne5
17	Bg2	Bd7
18	Bf2	Rc8
19	Nd4	Qa5
20	Rc1	Nc7
21	Rc2	Na6
22	0-0	Nc5
23	Nce2	Qxd2
24	Rxd2	Nxe4
25	fxe4	f3
26	Nxf3	Nxf3+
27	Bxf3	Rxf3
28	Bxa7	Rh3
29	Bf2	Be5
30	Nd4	Bg4
31	Be1	Re3
32	Bf2	Rxe4
33	Re1	Rxe1+
34	Bxe1	Rc1

White resigns

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keenes daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABITURIENT
a. Hungry
b. A school-leaver
c. Burning incense

FURRINER
a. A furrier
b. An early chart
c. An alien

BALLABILE
a. Bad temper
b. A dance
c. Easy to pronounce

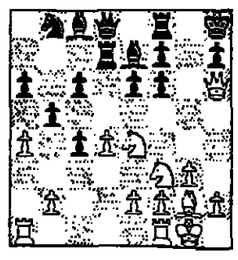
FENG-SHUI
a. Fighting with sticks
b. Flower arrangement
c. Spirit superstition

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Capablanca – Nimzowitsch, Bad Kissingen, 1928. Here, Capablanca had planned a sensational way to exploit the weaknesses around the black king. Can you see how?



Solution on page 50

Confessions by Warne and Waugh leave bitter taste in country that takes great pride in its cricketers



Warne, left, and Waugh leave the Adelaide Oval after a press conference in which they both admitted accepting money from an Indian bookmaker in 1994. Photograph: Tony Lewis

Australia vents its fury on disgraced players

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN ADELAIDE

THE breast-beating and hair-tearing could be heard all around Australia yesterday as a nation that glories in its cricketers and promotes them as paragons listened to two of the finest own up to something unpleasant in the closet.

Public confessions by Shane Warne and Mark Waugh that they accepted money from an Indian bookmaker and were subsequently fined for it have stunned this country, provoking an outcry of moralising and malevolence. The incident dates back four years, but the consequences have just begun.

The belief of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) that the matter is closed is fanciful nonsense. Throughout yesterday the debate raged, headlining the front pages of newspapers and leading television news bulletins. Radio stations ran phone-ins and current affairs shows were rejigged to reflect a crisis in a sport that is a subject of national pride and self-esteem.

The exposure of the episode has threatened the earning power of the men involved and of the Australian game itself. It has questioned the competence of those administrators who resorted to the crass expedient of secrecy. Moreover, it has undermined the conclusion of judicial inquiries in Pakistan into far more sinister offences linking cricket with betting, for most of the damning evidence was provided by Waugh and he can now be discredited too easily.

It is a sorry mess for cricket and one that should never have arisen. Seen in isolation, the specific offences are ludicrously trivial — the lucrative provision of pitch reports and weather forecasts as betting background — but the mental triple jumps being performed yesterday were spectacular evidence of the instinct to assume that this is the first worm out of the can. The need for worldwide agreement to investigate betting by cricketers has never been stronger.

It was lunchtime when Warne and Waugh — close friends in private, role models in public — sat before a sea of cameras, microphones and tape players in a crowded dining room at the Adelaide Oval. Warne, who had flown from Melbourne, alone and edgy, wore a fashionable jacket, appropriately black; Waugh was in team training kit, a reminder to any in the throng who had forgotten that he is due to start a Test match tomorrow.

Nerves beset them and they hurried through prepared statements of contrition like naughty schoolboys reciting lines, then fled with relief. Waugh puffing out his cheeks and Warne staring fixedly in the manner of one regretting his pledge to give up cigarettes. Neither felt like smiling. Their statements hardly differed, other than in the figures involved. Warne said he had been paid Aus$5,000 (about £1,870) by the bookmaker. Waugh, for some reason, received $6,000. As a result, Warne was fined $8,000 by the ACB and Waugh $10,000.

Each player admitted to being "naive and stupid" to take the bookmaker's money, while emphasising that the information, passed on by telephone, was "mundane" and did not even involve team selection. In turn, they stated that they had never been involved in match-fixing or bribery. "I think the way I play and conduct myself on the field show that I am a cricketer of integrity," Warne said, though he looked as if he knew it sounded hollow.

When they left, it was down to Malcolm Speed, the chief executive of the ACB, to field a barrage of questions. He did it for half an hour, patiently dealing with plenty that was pious, inflammatory and ill-informed, as well as a posturing television journalist in a bush hat who repeatedly insisted that the tax returns of the players should be investigated.

It sounded absurd, yet it was an example of the extreme reactions around the country on what Channel Nine, Kerry Packer's network, declared last night to be "one of Australian cricket's darkest days". It was the sound of a nation bowling at its fallen heroes.

Speed said that there was no question of the two players facing any additional, retrospective punishment. He added his conviction that no other Australian players were implicated and that the ACB was suppressing nothing further regarding betting.

Carefully, with deep breaths and lengthy silences, Speed also made it clear he was not prepared to accept the blame for the sins and omissions of his predecessors. "With hindsight, a different approach might have been taken," he said, "and I can give a guarantee that any future investigations will be made public."

It is not only the ACB who were guilty of a cover-up on this issue, but the International Cricket Council, who were informed in February 1995. It could and should have been in its power to insist that the matter be made public, so that the near inevitability of later humiliation could be avoided. It did nothing and it is the duty of the constituent countries to question its executives on this when they gather in New Zealand next month.

So far, the casualties of the affair are two cricketers whose images may never recover and whose sponsorships will probably diminish, and a game that had prided itself on its morals. "Australian cricket has a high reputation," Speed said. "It is inevitable that it has been damaged by this incident, and I regret that." It was quite a day for regrets.

A temptation that has been hard to resist

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BETTING and match-fixing in cricket are not new. Like so many sports where money is involved, players, managers and even officials have been corrupted. Although the results of individual activities such as boxing and horse racing can be influenced more easily than team sports, there are plenty of examples of team players gambling on the victories of their opponents.

Even some of the most famous in history have been tempted. Cricket flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries largely because it was a sport in which bets were placed on the outcome of games, so generating enormous interest among spectators.

The Rev Lord Frederick Beauclerk, who was so confident of his bowling ability that he hung his gold watch on the bails, gambled on the results of matches in which he was playing, stating that he made £600 a year from betting. Beauclerk was probably the leading figure in English cricket during the Napoleonic Wars.

The results of games were sometimes corrupt and it was the influence of Beauclerk that ended regular match-fixing in England. He remained a staunch supporter of betting, though, not seeing that the practice was bound to produce problems for any sport if the players were permitted to place wagers.

Until the recent scandals involving Salim Malik, Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, the most high-profile case in cricket centred on one of its most celebrated matches, when England upset Australia at Headingley in 1981. Dennis Lillee and Rodney Marsh, two leading members of the Australia team, placed a £15 bet at 500-1 on an England victory. However, no disciplinary action was taken because the wager was seen as light-hearted. In any case there was no evidence that they had not tried their best to help Australia to win the Test match.

Nothing that has occurred in cricket has matched the seismic effect on American baseball by the fixing of the result of the 1919 World Series by eight members of the Chicago White Sox, or, as they became known, the Black Sox. Although they were acquitted of criminal charges by a Chicago jury, they were banned for life by the baseball authorities.

In English football, the biggest match-fixing controversy involving betting was that of three Sheffield Wednesday players of the Sixties, Peter Swan, David Layne and Tony Kay. All were jailed on charges of conspiracy to defraud and initially suspended for life by the Football Association. Another seven League players also received jail sentences.

However, internationally, nothing recently has matched the shame of Marseilles. After they had won the 1993 European Cup by beating AC Milan 1-0 in the final, it was revealed that they had fixed the final game of the French league season against Valenciennes to ensure that they took the title.

Marseilles were stripped of their French title and relegated. Bernard Tapie, the club president and a leading politician, was jailed for his leading role in the affair, which covered several other games.

After the court cases last year in which Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers were all cleared of match-fixing charges, the FA reminded players that they must not bet on any professional matches, even if they are not themselves taking part in those games. The only exception is the football pools.





Lillee, left, and Marsh, of Australia, bet against their team

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Rice hopes to enlist Hadlee for coaching

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CLIVE RICE, the new Nottinghamshire cricket manager, wants to revive his famous double act with Sir Richard Hadlee. Rice is anxious to draw on Hadlee's expertise as a bowling coach to get the best out of the players at his disposal at Trent Bridge.

He also plans to use other players from his successful spell as captain to help to revive the club's fortunes. Rice has already recruited Chris Broad to provide specialist coaching for the left-handed batsmen on the playing staff. The former England opener will be working with Usman Afzal, Mathew Dowman and Paul Franks.

Hadlee will spend time in England next summer fulfilling a number of speaking engagements and Rice hopes that he will be able to spend some time at Trent Bridge. "I'm sure it can only help our young bowlers improve their performances," Rice said.

☐ MCC has had a larger Ashes urn designed which will be presented to the winning captain at the end of every series between the countries. The Ashes remain at Lord's however often Australia beat England. The new trophy is no less delicate — it is made of Waterford crystal — and stands 16 inches high on a plinth. This will go on display in Sydney before Tony Lewis, the president of MCC, presents it to Mark Taylor or Alec Stewart. Philip Flood, the High Commissioner of Australia, was present at the unveiling at Lord's yesterday.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

CRICKET

Stewart has solid grounds for delaying selection

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN ADELAIDE

CAPTAINCY has not blunted Alec Stewart's frivolous side, even in adversity. Finding himself confronted by a sea of news journalists, mostly oblivious to the fact that a crucial Test match begins here tomorrow, Stewart kept a straight face as he announced: "I've just offered Warnie a couple of beers but he wouldn't tell me how the wicket's going to play."

It was Stewart's way of pointing out that the city of churches is due to stage something other than a cricketing inquisition this week and, to a degree, it worked. Perplexed expressions greeted his risqué remark but, finally, he had diverted the questioning away from matters of which he knows nothing and on to safer territory — like pitch conditions and weather forecasts.

Both, ironically, were to the fore when discussion eventually turned to the third Ashes Test and England's prospects of an equalising win. As things stood yesterday, the pitch was wet and the weather scalding hot. By tomorrow the pitch will doubtless have dried, but the weather is predicted to be hotter still — not many Tests around the world begin in the anticipated temperature of 40 degrees.

Not surprisingly, this is confusing and delaying England's team selection for one of those matches that seem to come around in every series nowadays — the one they dare not lose. Stewart indicated that a final XI will not be chosen until shortly before the start, which is only sensible in such circumstances.

"The pitch has been heavily watered overnight," he reported. "It's not quite under water but it certainly surprised me that my boots brought up moisture when I walked on it this morning. The groundsman here knows what he's doing, though, he's one of the best in the world. I've never played on a bad wicket here."

If Stewart was not exactly alarmed by the conditions, they had given him and the team management pause for thought. So, too, had the look of the pitch, which has some bare areas from which the ball will surely turn for Stuart MacGill and perhaps, if he plays, even for Robert Croft. "It's very patchy," Stewart said cautiously.

The England captain confirmed that he would be "reluctant" to go into an Adelaide Test without a specialist spin bowler, so long as the pitch dries and firms as rapidly as Les Burdett, the long-serving groundsman, expects. As the mercury reached 36 degrees yesterday, and was expected to climb another couple today,



Stewart: wary

this should not be in doubt. What will concern England is the knowledge that a turning pitch is the surface on which they are most likely to lose, even without Shane Warne in the opposition.

The Brisbane pitch, for the first Test, could not have been fairer, but when it did begin to spin on the final day England's technique against leg spin looked as unconvincing as ever. They lost six wickets for 115 and needed a thunderstorm to save them.

Stewart, for one, will not relish resuming his contest with MacGill and the departure of Graham Thorpe, the one left-hander in the middle order, gives England an additional disadvantage. It is how they choose to compensate that will be fascinating.

Before the series, Stewart's preference was to field six batsmen and five specialist bowlers, but David Lloyd, the coach, favoured a balance of seven and four. To date, Brisbane has been played on Stewart's terms and Perth on Lloyd's, but the absence of Thorpe may now secure the insurance of the extra batsman.

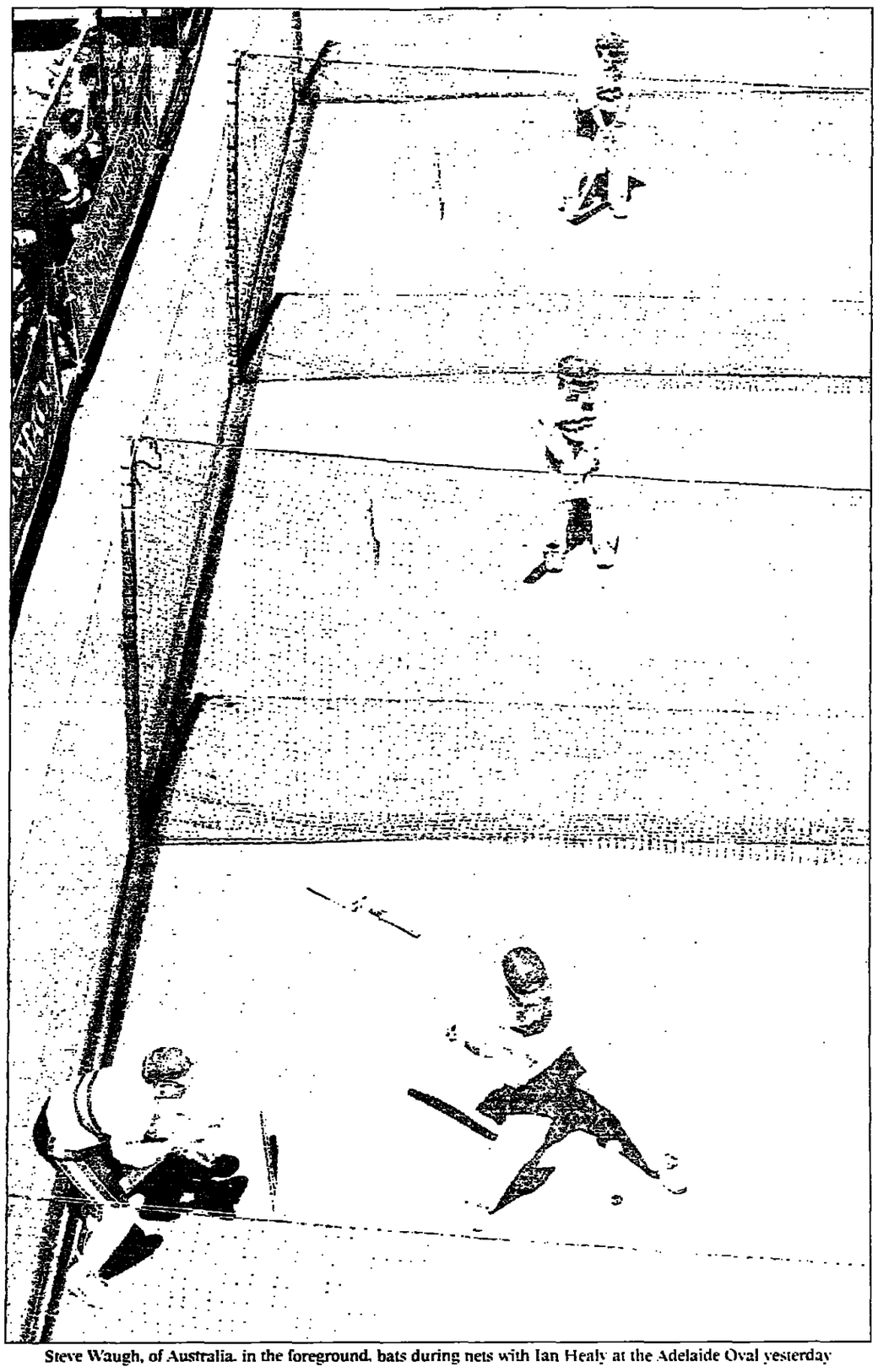
England must bear in mind that they cannot win without the bowlers to take 20 wickets, but they also need — somewhat more urgently judged on the recent past — sufficient batsmen to record a competitive first-innings score of at least 350.

This is likely to lead to Graeme Hick and John Crawley batting at No 6 and No 7 respectively, with Croft and three fast bowlers to follow. Dominic Cork would then be the seam bowler omitted, a contingency for which he may have been duly prepared yesterday as he took to his bed with flu.

England won in Adelaide four years ago, with a team given even less chance than this one. Not only were they 2-0 down with two to play but injuries had also carved gaping holes in the original party, with Stewart, Hick and Gough among those stricken.

There are more reasons to be hopeful this time. Gough is bowling better than at any time in his career and, with better luck, he will soon return the figures to show it. Alan Mullally and Alex Tudor complete a combative pace attack, one that has gained the important and unexpected respect of the opposition. Then there is the instability of the opposition to consider, for no side could fail to show the effects of the furore over Warne and Mark Waugh.

Where England are concerned, the game will come down to whether they can bat effectively in two innings. If they do, they can level this series. Otherwise, they will be doomed, for Australia may not be so vulnerable again.



Steve Waugh, of Australia, in the foreground, bats during nets with Ian Healy at the Adelaide Oval yesterday

Pakistan recall Salim for Test

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN have recalled Salim Malik, their former captain, for the second Test match against Zimbabwe that starts in Lahore today.

The selectors said that Salim would replace Inzamam-ul-Haq, who has pulled out because of illness and a suspected knee injury.

Salim, who scored a match-winning 149 for the Lahore City Cricket Association against Zimbabwe on Monday, will become only the second Pakistan player to play in 100 Tests.

Zimbabwe, meanwhile, have been left perplexed by the decision of the Pakistanis to prepare three pitches for the Lahore Test.

"We don't know as yet on which pitch we are going to play so we are delaying the announcement of the team," Alistair Campbell, who captained Zimbabwe to a seven-wicket victory in the first Test at Peshawar, his country's first Test success abroad, said.

Javed Miandad, the Pakistan coach, was equally perplexed. "No decision has been taken by the [Pakistan Cricket] Board (PCB) about the pitch," he said, adding that this reflected the state of Pakistan cricket.

Mohammad Bashir, the groundsman, said that he had been ordered to prepare three pitches, which are all well grassed, but the final decision will be taken by Hanif Mohammad, the PCB pitch consultant and former Pakistan captain.

Regardless of the pitch, Campbell said that his team intended to play positive cricket. "We have been playing positively and we want to continue in the same vein," he said.

"We can't afford to sit back on our laurels. We have two matches left and if we win this one we would win the series."

Miandad criticised his team for showing a lack of spirit in the first Test. "This team is basically playing on talent but what we need is more cohesion and team-work," he said.

PAKISTAN

ZIMBABWE

Promoted Gibbs has that ring of confidence for job as opener

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN PORT ELIZABETH

A NEW chapter in South African cricket opens today with the start of the second Test match against West Indies here. The South Africa team, the first selected after the United Cricket Board's stated policy of including "players of colour" in the national side as a matter of course, will show just one change to that fielded in Johannesburg, with the recall of Herschelle Gibbs.

Gibbs, 24 and, like Paul Adams, a Cape Coloured, returns to Test cricket after an absence of almost a year at the expense of Adam Bacher. Whereas Gibbs has been told by the selectors that he will start his eighth Test match today in the unaccustomed position of opening batsman, Adams, the left-arm wrist spinner, seems certain to be relegated to twelfth man once again.

The days when the pitches at St George's Park turned square are a thing of the past and Pat Symcox, with three wickets, valuable runs and no end of brawny aggression at The Wanderers, is retained as



Gibbs: chance to excel

the solitary spinner. David Terbrugge, who impressed during his first Test match two weeks ago, has overcome a strained side and completes the seam bowling attack with Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock.

Gibbs will be the centre of attention, particularly as he is the latest recruit in an effort to uncover a dependable opening partner for Gary Kirsten. Bacher, twice dismissed for single-figure scores in the first Test, and Gerhardus Liebenberg have been unimpressive in that position. Not once in the past six Test matches has South Africa's opening partnership passed 25.

Gibbs's credentials far from support his selection. He has not opened the innings in a first-class match this season and the last time he did so was for South Africa A against Somerset more than two years ago. His Test batting average is fractionally more than 17 with a solitary half-century, against Australia.

What Gibbs does possess, however, is a wealth of natural ability — an exceptional schoolboy cricketer, he was only 16 when he made his first appearance for Western Province — and a level head needed to rise above the inevitable accusations that his place in the side can be put down merely to racial tokenism.

"I always firmly believed I was good enough to play at this level and if I got chosen on race it's not going to bother me. I'm just happy to be back in the team," he said.

"It's quite a big step from batting at No 5, but not entirely new. I have faced the new ball in one-day cricket, but obviously there will be a bit more bounce and I don't really know the bowlers. I've spoken to Gary Kirsten. He's been our stalwart for the last few years and has probably faced everything that's been out there."

For West Indies, who were defeated by four wickets in the first Test, Curtly Ambrose has a slight injury to the elbow on his bowling arm but is expected to play and Carl Hooper appears to have recovered from a groin strain. There is a suggestion that Mervyn Dillon may replace Nixon McLean in the pace attack.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): W J Cronje (captain), S M Pollock, G Kirsten, H H Gibbs, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, M V Boucher, P L Symcox, A A Donald, P R Adams, D Terbrugge

WEST INDIES (from): B C Lara (captain), C L Hooper, C B Lambert, P A Wallace, S Chanderpaul, R D Jacobs, F A Rose, C A Walsh, C E L Ambrose, N A M McLean, M Dillon, S C Williams, R Jacobs, D Ganga, F L Reifer, J R Murray

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THE TIMES EUROBREAKS TOKEN 5

BRITTANY

Bannalec: Manoir du Menec 3* — Charming 15th-century manor. RO £44 n/a n/a £24 1

Dinan: Hotel Arvor 2* — A charming, renovated 18th-century hotel. RO £34 n/a n/a £17 1

Quimper: Climat 2* — Modern, near centre, restaurant. RO £34 n/a n/a £17 1

Quimper: Hotel Mascotte 2* — Convenient base from which to discover this historic town. BB £38 n/a n/a £21 2

Roscoff: Hotel Ibis 2* — Centre, close to sea. BB £44 n/a n/a £22 1

Roscoff: Hotel Talabardon 3* — Centre, sea view from restaurant. Closed until 26/2. BB £49 n/a n/a £27 1

St Malo: Climat 2* — Modern with restaurant and bar. RO £34 n/a n/a £17 1

St Malo: Hotel Mascotte 2* — Conveniently located, with restaurant and bar. BB £39 n/a n/a £21 2

St Malo: Ibis Plage 2* — Modern hotel overlooking the sea. BB £39 n/a n/a £19 1

St Malo: Bleu Marine 3* — On the seafront, close to amazing streets and restaurants. RO £44 n/a n/a £22 2

St Malo: Hotel le Central 3* — Traditional hotel, good restaurant. BB £54 n/a n/a £34 1

Vannes: Clarine 2* — Modern hotel close to historic centre. RO £34 n/a n/a £19 2

NORMANDY

BAYEUX

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Hotel d'Argouges 2* — 18th-century manor house. BB £44 n/a n/a £22 1

Le Cheneviere 4* — Traditional Normandy chateau, gourmet cuisine. Closed 1/1-12/1, 2 and 13-21/2. BB £49 n/a n/a £34 1

Cabourg: Mercure Hippodrome 3* — Overlooking race course. BB £44 n/a n/a £24 1

Caen: Clarine Caen Nord 2* — Modern, middle-size hotel, restaurant. Supp £4 Mon-Thurs £4pp pn. RO £34 n/a n/a £16 1

Caen: Ibis Centre 2* — Opposite the marina close to chateau. RO £34 n/a n/a £16 1

Caen: Mercure 3* — Opposite the marina with restaurant. RO £49 n/a n/a £26 1

Chorbourg: Mercure 3* — On the marina, with restaurant and bar. RO £49 n/a n/a £26 1

Ducey: Mourin de Ducey 3* — Converted former watermill. RO £49 n/a n/a £26 1

Honfleur: Campanile Honfleur 2* — Modern, middle-size Mon-Thur supp £4pp pn. RO £34 n/a n/a £16 2

Honfleur: Otelinn 2* — A peaceful modern hotel. BB £38 n/a n/a £22 1

Honfleur: Hotel Antares 3* — Fitness room, Jacuzzi, steam baths. RO £44 n/a n/a £22 1

Mont St Michel: Relais St Michel 4* — Panoramic restaurant and spacious rooms. BB £49 n/a n/a £29 1

Rouen: Clarine 2* — Close to the old town. RO £34 n/a n/a £17 1

Rouen: Hôtel de Dieppe 3* — In the heart of the Rouen close to the cathedral, museums and shops. RO £44 n/a n/a £24 2

Rouen: Hotel Frantour 3* — Close to all the sights. Mon-Thur supp £4pp pn. RO £39 n/a n/a £21 1

Trouville: Mercure 3* — Close to the casino and quayside. BB £44 n/a n/a £24 1

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CHANGING TIMES

BOWLS

Smith sidelined by England selectors

THE introduction of a new international trials system, aimed at halting England's slide over recent years, has been overshadowed by the selectors' desire to drop Chris Smith, who has been an England regular for 15 years.

Smith, the chairman of the Professional Bowls Association (PBA), which represents the world's leading players, has qualified for the final stage of the trials, meaning that three players will be selected from four pairings, with Andy Thomson and Carl Cooke both having made the trials' first stage.

[illegible]

[illegible] ing the North, Central, South and West, and South and East, will compete on a round-robin basis and the 64 players will be assessed by seven selectors, under the chairmanship of Tony Horobin.

However, Smith, who is provisionally ranked No 9 in the world, has not been included. "I am making no comment, but everyone I meet is astonished," Smith said. "They find it impossible to believe I'm not in the top 64 bowlers in England and tell me they can't escape the conclusion that the decision is politically motivated."

On the surface, negotiations between the PBA and officials of the world's governing bodies have been cordial, but it is well known that player-inspired developments have been bitterly opposed by some members of the English Indoor Bowling Association.

BADMINTON

Final confirmation arrives for Morgan

KELLY MORGAN'S remarkable year has reached its appropriate peak with her inclusion among the 12 names that have been announced as the women's singles qualifiers for the World Grand Prix finals in Brunei on February 24 to 28 (Richard Eaton writes).

She is the first Welsh player to reach a Grand Prix final and the first British women's singles player for seven years to qualify.

Morgan's appearance in the tournament is further confirmation of what has been increasingly evident over the past 18 months: that she is putting distance between herself and any other women's singles player in Great Britain. Her height, reach, movement and consistency took her to the European final in Sofia in April, then to become the first British singles player to reach the world's top ten, and finally, in September, to a Commonwealth Games gold medal. Chris Rees, her coach, believes that she is capable of testing the leading Asians and the Grand Prix finals could provide a useful indication as to whether he is right, for nine of the 12 qualifiers are from Asia.

Four English players have qualified in doubles events. They are Chris Hunt, Simon Archer, Joanne Goode and Donna Kellogg, all of whom are being groomed in Park Joo-Bong's squad as potential Olympic medal contenders.

Hunt and Archer, the European men's doubles champions, are the only English players to be invited to participate in the Copenhagen Masters in two weeks' time. Morgan is the only British player to be invited in either singles event.

upset to talk after the hearing. | they tried to hammer a stake | assaulted by Mr Rush.

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RUGBY UNION

Llanelli hope for boost before hard French test

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IN KEEPING with so many of the ad hoc arrangements in British rugby that have almost become the norm, Llanelli and Pontypridd must wait until today before they can finalise their teams for the quarter-finals of the European Cup on Saturday. Both Welsh clubs seek permission to field players who have recently joined them, but no decision is expected from European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) in Dublin until this morning.

Llanelli, who travel to Perpignan, are most affected since their recent signings include Scott Quinnell, the Wales No 8, who joined from Richmond last month. Quinnell's experience and power would be a key factor in Llanelli's bid to do what no Welsh club has yet achieved in the competition — win on French soil.

The club also has doubts over Byron Hayward, the former Ebbw Vale fly half, whose eight goals helped them to beat Pontypridd at the weekend, Jason Barrell, the prop from New Zealand, and Salesi Finau, the Tongan centre. All four players, along with Tom Billups, the United States hooker who is helping Pontypridd out of an injury crisis, will be discussed at an ERC board meeting.

"It is a sensitive issue," Stuart Gallacher, the Llanelli chief executive, who is also an ERC director, said. "It's not a satisfactory situation for either club since we have teams to prepare for the weekend, but I can understand why ERC need to discuss the eligibility of these players." They have been cleared to play by the Welsh Rugby Union, who enjoy a dispensation from ERC which the other competing countries do not.

The deadline for registration was September 12, but Welsh clubs, most of them desperately short of funds, can only register 28 players whereas their other European opponents have 40 or more players to call upon. Hence the permission given to Wales to register or de-register players after that date, since a string of injuries could easily affect the ability of clubs to field a 22-man squad. However, the ERC panel will need to be certain that such is the case for Llanelli.

Pontypridd's only fit hooker at the moment is Andrew Lamerton so they seek back-up from Billups before challenging Stade Français, one of the favourites for the competition. The Paris-based club suffered a surprise 39-37 defeat at the hands of Biarritz on Sunday and Guy Laporte, their coach, was so disgusted that he is prepared to drop three first-choice players, two of them internationals.



Quinnell: power

Vincent Moscato, the hooker and captain, Franck Comba, the centre, and David Auradou, the lock, are taking the brunt of the blame for the defeat. However, that will bring together a midfield pairing which seasoned observers believed may be the best in France at the moment, that of Richard Dourthe and Cliff Mytton, the experienced New Zealander from North Harbour.

"I cannot see any team stopping us from grabbing the title," Moscato said before his team's home defeat. That in itself passes a motivational tool to Pontypridd while the captaincy will pass to Diego Dominguez, the Italy fly half and a goalkicker of similar calibre to Neil Jenkins.

Pontypridd, Llanelli and Caerphilly, who travel to Brive for the quarter-finals of the European Shield, have pooled their information on French opponents in the hope of disrupting a potential French hegemony in the semi-finals of both competitions. Ireland, too, have something to say in the cup since Ulster start the ball rolling tomorrow evening against Toulouse, whom they have already beaten at Ravenhill this season, while Munster play Colomiers on Sunday.

The Welsh Rugby Union have postponed today's disciplinary hearing over Cardiff and Swansea, the clubs who have broken away from the domestic league. The pair were due to present their cases to the union, who can now concentrate upon preparing its own defence when they join the Rugby Football Union in Dublin next Thursday before an International Rugby Board disciplinary panel.

Rudolf Straeuli, the former South Africa back-row forward, has been confirmed as director of coaching to Bedford after the resignation on Monday of Geoff Cooke. "It's a great opportunity for me and I'm ready for the challenges ahead," Straeuli said. He has been coaching the forwards all season, in any event, and is well-respected by colleagues and opponents alike.



WILL BURGESS

Calcavecchia, left, and Duval, third left, are distracted at the Royal Melbourne yesterday while Couples, second left, and Furyk remain focused

United States set sights on hat-trick

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MELBOURNE

PETER THOMSON, a man not given to marketing hyperbole, has called the third Presidents Cup, which starts at Royal Melbourne tomorrow, "the biggest golf event Australia has ever had".

Admittedly, Thomson is the captain of the International team that is trying to beat the United States — who will be captained by Jack Nicklaus — for the first time in a biennial event that will take time to achieve the stature of the Ryder Cup, but the five-time Open Championship winner is a clear-eyed observer rather than a publicist.

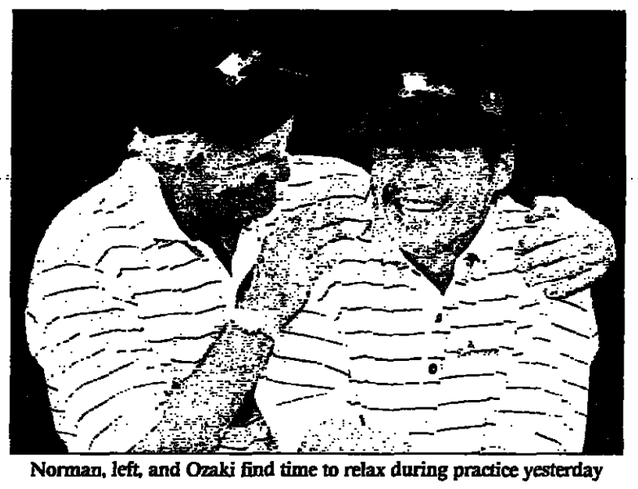
"It's as big as any tennis event," Thomson added, "but I don't know if it's bigger than a Test match." In any case, there are no concerns about potential spectators being lured to the third Ashes Test match, which will be played at Adelaide, because that town is dismissed here as "somewhere at the other end of the Great Ocean Road".

Sydney may have secured the Olympic Games — inter-state infighting is big in Australia — but some of the best golf courses in the world are in Melbourne and the Royal, designed by Alister Mackenzie and revered to this day by golf architects around the world, is a venue to test the best.

Quite a few of the best are here. The majority of them are Americans, but, as the Ryder Cup has shown, world rankings and status sometimes dissolve in the heat of battle. Not that this is war, of course. "This is sport," Thomson said. "There will be no blood on the floor."

Tiger Woods, the world No 1, who is making his debut in the event and did not have a successful Ryder Cup on his first appearance, at Valderrama last year, echoed Thomson's sentiments. "This is how it should be," Woods, clearly enjoying the relaxed atmosphere, said.

Competition is not cosy, however, and the team events are bound to be competitive. Australians like their sport red and raw and they are hoping for a contest, not an exhibition.



Norman, left, and Ozaki find time to relax during practice yesterday

The United States won the first Presidents Cup, in Washington, easily. The second renewal, also in Washington, was much more dramatic, America securing a one-point victory courtesy of Fred Couples holing an outrageous putt to beat Vijay Singh.

This time, Singh, a player of genuine stature, is back as US PGA champion and the Fijian's team-mates include Ernie Els, of South Africa, and Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, as well as Steve Elkington and Greg Norman, both of Australia. Stuart Appleby and Craig Parry, also from Australia, are also in the side, along with Frank Nobilo and Greg Turner, from New Zealand, Shigeki Maruyama and Naomichi "Joe" Ozaki, from Japan, and Carlos Franco, of Paraguay.

The United States team will include Lee Janzen, the US Open champion. He has replaced Hal Sutton, who withdrew because of the death of his father-in-law. Janzen excelled himself at the Ryder Cup last year and joins eight other Americans who were in action at Valderrama, the others being Woods, Couples, Davis Love III, Justin Leonard, Jim Furyk, Mark O'Meara, Scott Hoch and Phil Mickelson. David Duval, Mark Calcavecchia and John Huston complete their side.

The United States should win, but it is the end of a long, hard season and they are far from home.

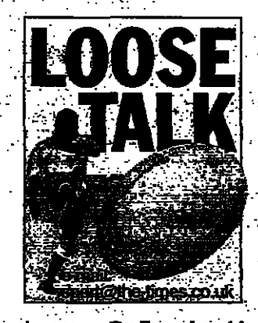
Cooke in line to head First Division body

Geoff Cooke may not be out of a job for long. Cooke, who on Monday finally tired of dealing with Bedford's myriad financial problems, is considered the ideal candidate for chief executive of English First Division Rugby (EFDR), a post being filled temporarily by Howard Thomas, formerly of Sale. Quite by chance, the EFDR board meets today, and will discuss the appointment. Tom Walkinshaw, the new chairman, has made the overhaul of EFDR one of his priorities; he wants a stronger centralised governing body. One source said: "Geoff's position has been discussed. Once the deal over the future structure is finalised it will need someone of stature to implement it. He fits the bill."

Winning habit

Frank Warren may be having his problems at Bedford, but not everyone in rugby is suffering financial heartache. Neil Shillingford, of Dudley-Kingswinford, brother of Peter, the former Moseley No 8, has won the National Lottery.

The second-row forward scooped the jackpot in May but his good fortune came to light only last Saturday after his side beat Dunstable II-0 in the NPI Cup and he won first prize in the club raffle — a case of wine. Neil played and coached for Kings Norton, but was already committed to



a move to Dudley when his numbers — all six of them — came up.

More Penguins

The Penguin Rugby Football Club celebrates its fortieth anniversary next year, a busy season that will include summer tours to Croatia, Bosnia, the Czech Republic and Poland, and participation in the Middlesex Sevens as a guest side. Celebrations start today with a dinner at the House of Commons hosted by Derek Wyatt, MP, chairman of the Commons all-party rugby union group. The Croatian, Polish and Czech ambassadors will be guests of honour.

Irish connection

Jonathan Davies could make a surprise comeback for the All Ireland League side, Old Belvedere. After an approach by Ken Shiel, a friend and Old Belvedere stalwart, the former Wales outside half and Great Britain rugby league international has signed for the Dublin second-division club. Alan Fanagan, a club spokesman, said Davies, 36, a frequent visitor to Dublin on behalf of Guinness, was willing to play in an emergency. "He would be an enormous asset — even in an advisory capacity," he said.

Pitch battle

The Cabbage Patch may have gone, but concerns have been expressed about the state of the Twickenham playing surface. Matt Dawson pointed out that one of the reasons he missed the second of his three penalty kicks on Saturday was because he could not find a decent spot on which to place his tee. John Clark, the Twickenham clerk of works, explained that with internationals, mini-rugby and 20 hours' training on it recently, the pitch has taken a battering. Could it be that now the stadium is all enclosed the grass doesn't get a chance to recover properly with a drying wind?

☐*Congratulations to Richard Field, the RFU's marketing director, who has raised more than £11,500 for Children in Need with a sponsored cycle ride around Twickenham. He covered 203 laps of the stadium, the equivalent of 100 miles, in 7hr 55min 46sec.*

MARK SOUSTER

SQUASH

Wright resolve triumphs

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE dedication of Sue Wright, the British champion, to her role in the Potters Bar squad for the SRA National Squash League paid off again this week when she survived a fierce 75-minute attack from Jenny Tranfield to win the deciding fifth-string rubber against Loughborough 9-7, 9-6, 9-10, 6-9, 9-5 to keep her side in touch with the group B leadership.

Potters Bar are a rugged outfit led by the former British champion, Mark Cairns, a huge man who is actively disappointed by matches of less than an hour's duration, and featuring a middle-order of John Ransome, Iain Higgins, Paul Carter and Jamie Davis that only the bravest players approach without apprehension.

With a newly refurbished clubhouse and two national league titles in their recent history, the Hertfordshire side have dropped only one match, significantly when Wright was off court with food poisoning, and that to the group leaders, UK Packaging, at Connaught in Chingford, Essex.

The UK Packaging squad, which rested this week, includes the world No 1, Peter Nicol, and world junior champion, Ong Beng Hee. The only undefeated side in the league, they hold a five-point lead over Potters Bar at the head of group B with 22 points.

Wright's determination in the fifth-string woman's role has twice swung matters for her side, though she was surprised by the vehemence of Tranfield's counter-attack after holding two match balls against her in the third game.

Tranfield's failure completely to exploit that surprise left Loughborough last in the group on seven points, the only squad without a single win from the half-season.

In group A, Manchester Northern escaped a similar fate with their first win of the season, 4-1 over the group leaders, TSM Duffield, whose men failed to take a single rubber and whose only point came from a typically obstinate 8-10, 10-8, 9-1, 9-3 win by their third choice woman, Pauline Nicholl, over Tracey Shenton.

Duffield remain at the top of the group on 18 points but Nottingham jump from fourth place to second on 16 points with a crushing 5-0 home win over UNW Northumberland, with British champion Simon Parke leading a full strength line-up for the first time in the competition.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Beardsley ends spell with Fulham

■ **FOOTBALL:** Peter Beardsley has left Fulham after the expiry of his month-long contract at Craven Cottage. Beardsley had been on loan from Bolton Wanderers between March and November and subsequently joined Fulham on a month-to-month contract after his release from Bolton. Fulham, meanwhile, have signed Francois Keller — brother of West Ham United's Marc — from Strasbourg for £30,000. Marko Viduka has said that he will return to play for Celtic once he feels he has regained "total fitness" after a period of recuperation in his native Australia. The 23-year-old striker is not expected back in Scotland until the new year after walking out on Celtic at the weekend, complaining of stress and depression, just five days after joining them from Croatia Zagreb for £3million.

McEnroe up for Cup

■ **TENNIS:** Tom Gullikson, the United States Davis Cup captain, is not ruling out the possibility of John McEnroe playing doubles in the World Group match against Great Britain in Birmingham in April. McEnroe, who will be 40 in February, said he is still the best doubles player in the world and deserves a chance. "I'd be happy to talk to John, but at his age he's not the future of the Davis Cup," Gullikson said. "He's still a great player, but he played on the tour many years ago and the game has speeded up since." McEnroe said: "I'm not holding my breath, but that doesn't mean that I don't know in my heart that I'm better than the guys who've been playing doubles since I stopped playing."

West forced to cut back

■ **RUGBY UNION:** West Hartlepool have been forced into a radical financial shake-up in a desperate bid for survival. The club is to axe its second team, make two administrative redundancies and put seven players on pay-as-you-play contracts to save £400,000. West have lost all 11 of their Allied Dunbar Premiership first division games this season and attracted smaller-than-expected crowds. "We have the lowest gate prices in the Premiership, some of the best players in the world are here, but financially the numbers haven't supported the game," Paul Mackings, the chief executive, said.

Positive test at Games

■ **ASIAN GAMES:** The championships suffered their first doping scandal yesterday when the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said a Jordanian weightlifter had tested positive for drugs. An OCA statement said Ayed Jassar Khwaldeh had tested positive for the banned diuretic, triamterene, and had been disqualified. There were a number of doping incidents, mainly Chinese swimmers, at the 1994 Games in Japan.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Napier, New Zealand (third day of four): India 103 (A Penn 4-43) and 390 (N R Monga 79, S R Tendulkar 154, Furlong 4-177). Central Districts Selection XI (C M Spearman 85, M Sinclair 52, J Engelsfield 63 not out, Mohanty 4-88) and 73-2.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

UEFA CUP: Third round, second leg: Liverpool 0 Celta Vigo 1; Parma 3 Rangers 1; Atletico Madrid 4 Real Sociedad 1 (aet; Atletico Madrid win 5-3 on agg); Real Betis 1 Bologna 0 (Bologna win 4-2 on agg); Bordeaux 0 Grasshoppers 0 (3-3 on agg; Bordeaux win on away goals); FC Bruggeois 3 Lyons 4; (Lyons win 5-3 on agg); Marseilles 1 AS Monaco 0 (Marseilles win 3-2 on agg); FC Zurich 2 AS Roma 2 (AS Roma win 3-2 on agg)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crewe 1 West Bromwich Albion 1. **Second division:** York 2 Lincoln 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern Section: First round: Blackpool 0 Stoke City 2. Burnley 0 Preston North End 1. Chester City 1 Hartlepool United 2; Macclesfield Town 0 Wrexham 1; Manchester City 1 Mansfield Town 2; Oldham Athletic 0 Darlington 1; Rotherham United 0 Wigan Athletic 3. **Postponed:** Notts County v Hull City. **SOUTHERN SECTION: First round:** Bournemouth 2 Reading 0; Brentford 2 Plymouth Argyle 0; Peterborough United 3 Lyton Orient 0; Shrewsbury Town 0 Wycombe Wanderers 1; Swansea City 4 Barnet 1; Walsall 2 Bristol Rovers 2 (aet; Walsall win 5-4 on pens).

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Rushden and Diamonds v Yeovil

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: First-round replay: Livingstone 3 Dumbarton 0. **SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division:** Raith Rovers 1, Hamilton 1.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Dr Martens FL 0 FA XI 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 3 Congleton 2; Droylsden 2 Flixton 1; Harrogate Town 5 Whitley Bay 1; Netherfield Kendal 3 Great Harwood 2. **Postponed:** Hucknall v Mallock Town. **President's cup: Second round: Postponed:** Altrincham v Leigh RM.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Cambridge City v Burton. **League cup: First round, second leg:** Crawley 5 Erith and Belvedere 0 (Crawley won 6-0 on agg); Redditch 2 Evesham 1 (Redditch won 6-2 on agg); Stafford 3 Racing Club Warwick 2 (Racing Club Warwick won 5-4 on agg); Stourbridge 3 Bloxwich 1 (Stourbridge won 7-3 on agg). **Postponed:** Baldock v Raunds; Gresley v Tamworth; King's Lynn v Boston.

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Grays 1 Uxbridge 0; Wembley 0 Braintree 3. **Second division:** Bracknell 1 Bedford Town 2; Marlow 0 Horsham 0; Thame 1 Barking 0. **Third division:** Epsom and Ewell 1 Ware 2; Kingsbury 1 Cheshunt 2. **Pusaa Cups: Second round:** Yeading 2 Wealdstone 5. **Vandanel Trophy: Second round:** East Thurrock 2 Hertford 3, Leighton 2 Northwood 1; Wivenhoe 3 Witham 1.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference: Postponed: York v Halifax.

NATIONWIDE GOLD CUP: Semi-final: Glenavon 1 Glentoran 4 (aet), Linfield 0 Portadown 3.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Tottenham Hotspur 0 Watford 0. **Postponed:** West Ham v Oxford.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 0 Aston Villa 0. **First division:** Coventry 0 Barnsley 0; Sheffield Wed 1 Wolverhampton 2.

SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP: First round: Postponed: Brighton v Gillingham.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cove 0 Bedfont 8

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: South Shields v Newcastle Blue Star; Tow Law v Shildon.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury 5 Wantage 0 **Postponed:** Harrow Hill v Hellen.

JEWSON FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham 5 Gorleston 0; Harwich and Parkeston 0 Sudbury Wanderers 0; Maldon 2 Ipswich 1; Newmarket 0 Soham 3; Sudbury 3 Stowmarket 1. **Postponed:** Watton v Ely; Wroxham v Great Yarmouth. **League Cup: Second round: Postponed:** Norwich United v Diss.

JEWSON FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP: Second-round replay: Postponed: Histon v Warboys.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second-round replay: Romford v Bishop's Stortford

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace v Portsmouth (at Crawley FC, 2.0); Norwich v Peterborough.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Birmingham (at St Helens RLFC, 7.0).

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second-round replay: Rothwell v Hendon.

RUGBY UNION

WOMEN'S MATCH: Cambridge University v United States U-23 (Grange Road, 7.0).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: London Knights v Sheffield Steelers (7.0); Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils (8.0).

RACKETS

QUEENS CLUB: Lacoste Amateur singles championship: Semi-finals: J Male bt A Robinson 16-14, 15-9, 5-15, 17-14, W Boone bt M Windows 15-12, 15-7, 18-18 **Final:** Male bt Boone 15-1, 15-8, 15-9.

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Bradford 22 St Peter's, York 14, Giggleswick 17 Leeds GS 10

SNOOKER

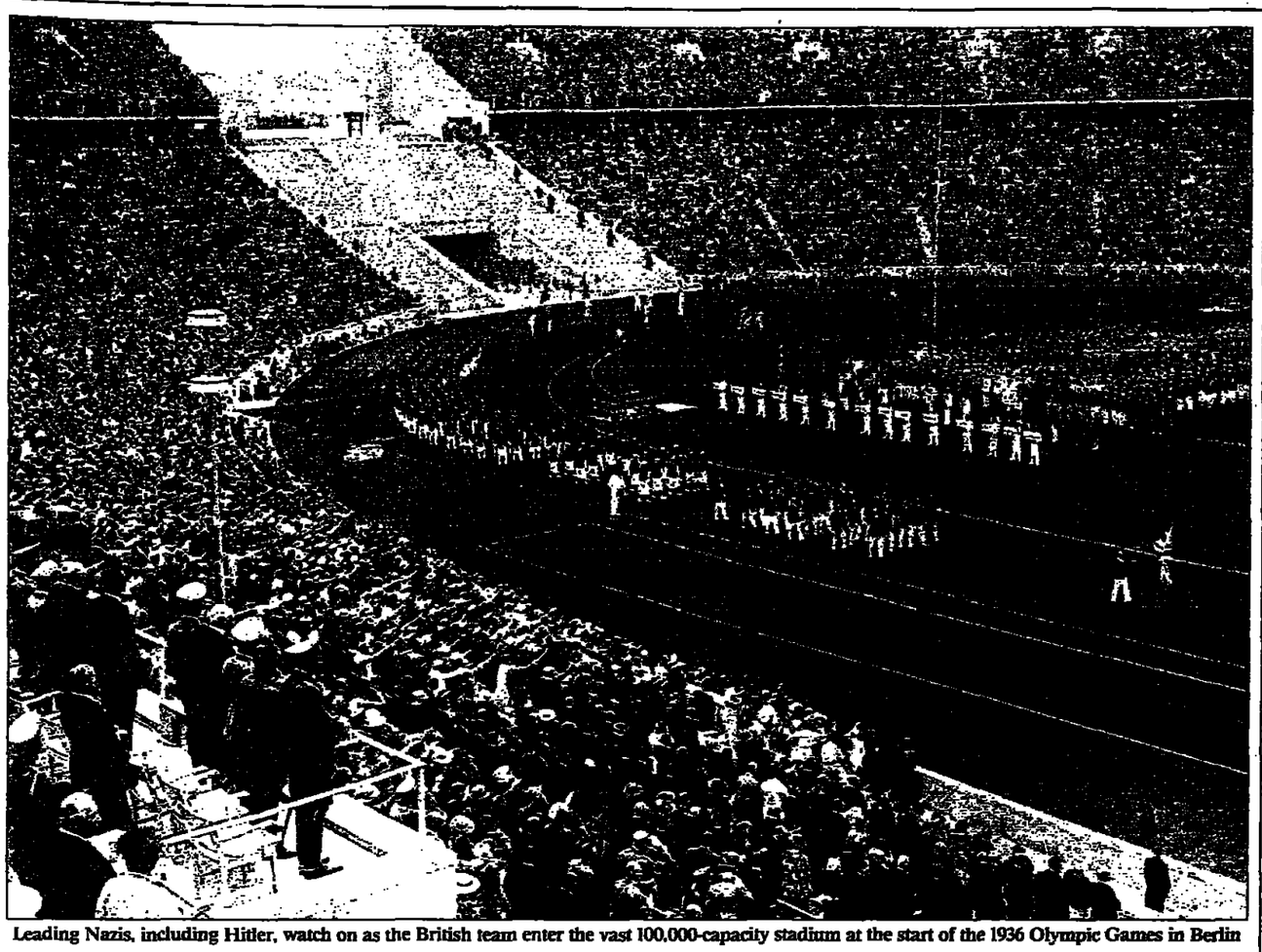
BINGEN: German Masters: First round: A MacManus (Scot) bt S Davis (Engl 5-0.

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group A: Manchester Northern 4 TSM Duffield 1 (N Taylor bt D Ryan 15-11, 15-7, 7-15, 15-9; M Berrett bt D Campion 15-13, 15-10, 15-12; P Whitlock bt P Hargrave 10-15, 15-9, 15-7, 15-4; P Foster bt P Williams 15-7, 15-8, 15-3; T Shenton lost to P Nicholl 10-8, 8-10, 1-9, 3-9). Capital One Nottingham 5 UNW Northumberland 0 (S Parke bt C Walker 15-14, 15-10, 15-13; D Evans bt T Hands 13-15, 15-10, 15-4, 15-3; L Beschell bt J Dale 15-9, 15-12, 15-12; J Nicolle bt P Millington 17-15, 15-10, 15-2; N Grainger bt J Martin 7-9, 9-5, 9-6, 9-1). **Group B:** Ashursts Loughborough 2 Potters Bar 3 (A Gough lost to M Cairns 5-15, 7-15, 4-15, S Taylor bt I Higgins 6-15, 15-11, 15-11, 14-15, 15-5, D Walsh bt P Carter 15-6, 15-17, 15-11, 15-14; S Miller lost to P Barker 7-15, 5-15, 10-15, J Tranfield lost to S Wright 7-9, 6-9, 10-8, 9-6, 5-9). Bishops Stortford 1 Edgbaston Priory 4 (J Bonetat lost to D Harris 9-15, 4-15, 11-15, S Handley bt B Bell 15-8, 15-6, 9-15, 6-15, 15-10; B Ford lost to C Leach 7-15, 3-15, 15-12, 15-11, 6-15; G Le Chemmant lost to J Kemp 13-15, 13-15, 13-15, R Macree lost to F Geaves 0-9, 9-7, 9-6, 3-9, 3-9). **Group C:** Lee-on-Solent 4 UWIC Cardiff 1 (N Dugen bt G Tippings 15-3, 15-4, 10-15, 15-3, S Ross bt P Allen 15-4, 10-15, 15-8 ret injured; D Watson lost to S Evans 15-11, 14-15, 8-15, 11-15; P D Johnson bt M Hughes 15-12, 15-8, 9-15, 15-6; D Lloyd-Waller bt A Perreira 9-0, 9-0 9-0). Devon and Exeter 1 Chichester 4 (H Stiff bt L Drew 15-13, 15-2, 15-10; D Bradbury lost to J Robbins 15-3, 15-14, 11-15, 13-15, 4-15, M Hopkins lost to B Garner 10-15, 15-9, 16-17, 10-15; A Starr lost to T Vail 9-15, 11-15, 15-11, 4-15; C Khan lost to S Brind 3-9, 2-9, 4-9).

League positions: Group A: 1, TSM Duffield 18pts. 2, Capital One Nottingham 16. 3, Hallamshire 14; 4, UNW Northumberland 12; 5 Manchester Northern 10. **Group B:** 1, UK Packaging 22, 2, Potters Bar 17, 3, Edgbaston Priory 15. 4, Bishops Stortford 9, 5, Ashursts Loughborough 7 **Group C:** 1, UniS Guildford 21. 2, Chichester 15. 3, Devon & Exeter 15; 4, Lee-on-Solent 12. 5, UWIC Cardiff 7.

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing. ... they tried to hammer a stake ... assaulted by Mr. Rush. ... OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST ... TED.



Leading Nazis, including Hitler, watch on as the British team enter the vast 100,000-capacity stadium at the start of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin

The stadium Hitler hated

In Berlin the old 1936 Olympic stadium is casting a swastika-shaped shadow across Germany's bid for the 2006 World Cup. The Germans wonder if they dare restore it for the tournament and have even talked of taking a bulldozer to it, fearing that the world will label it "Hitler's favourite stadium". They should relax. Hitler was contemptuous of the place, and what would surely have been his "favourite stadium" was designed, but never built.

He and his gang managed to hijack the arena in Berlin for a while, but the stadium, which held more than 100,000, was dismissed by them as being "too small" and "too cheap" for their purposes.

The plans for the German games and the building of the stadium long predated the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, and despite their best efforts to control the spectacle, Jesse Owens, the black American athlete, and his like cocked a golden snook at Hitler's belief that a master race of Aryan sportsmen would sweep all before them.

The Berlin stadium, causing such heart-searching today, owed its existence not to any political leader, but to Dr Carl Diem, a German sporting fanatic-turned-scholar and historian. To this day, there is a plaque in the crumbling old stadium dedicated to him. He had been involved in German sport since the 1890s and led the German contingents to the Athens Games of 1906 and the Olympics of 1912 in Stockholm. He was a classical scholar and one of the great sports historians of this century.

Diem's greatest disappointment came when the outbreak of the First World War aborted the 1916 Olympics, which were to have been held in Berlin. Like Baron de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, Diem believed that the Olympic movement was a force for peace, and yearned for the ethos of the ancient Olympics when warring states would declare a truce to allow the games to take place.

Germany was excluded from the immediate post-war games of 1920 and 1924, but thanks mainly to furious lobbying by Diem, they were allowed back into the 1928 games in Amsterdam. He repeatedly pressed for the Olympics to be held in Berlin, pointing out that the facilities intended for 1916 were still there, and was delighted in May 1932 when Berlin's bid beat off that of Barcelona.

> 'He dismissed the arena in Berlin as far too small and far too cheap for his purposes'

BRYANT'S EYE

The 1932 Games were awarded to Los Angeles, where the organisers set a new pace for innovations, including a purpose-built Olympic village and subsidised food and transport. Diem haunted the American games, notebook and tape-measure in hand, vowing that everything he witnessed would be done on a grander scale in Germany. He was sure that the Berlin games would be the most spectacular ever. If he was alarmed by the rise of the Nazi party, he did not show it. He was never a Nazi party member, but he was consumed by his vision of the games and did not particularly care who his masters were, as long as the bills were paid.

With the games safely secured for Germany, Diem was able to indulge his love of pageantry and classical legend. He sent an archeological expedition to the site of the ancient Olympics in Olympia, paying for much of it out of his own pocket. Focusing on Olympia, Diem was able to resurrect a pseudo-classical stunt he had toyed with for the games-that-never-were in 1916. This involved a troupe of Greek virgins kindling the "sacred Olympic flame" from the rays of the sun at the ancient site, and starting a relay of lighted torches that would end in the great stadium in Berlin.

That stadium, built by Werner March, was in its day the biggest and best in the world. But Hitler sniffed and wrote it off as being far too small and too cheap, with too little marble. Even a bit of touching up by Albert Speer, his favourite architect, could not make the Führer enthuse about it.

> 'Speer was told to draw up plans for one that would hold more than 400,000 spectators'

The Olympics that were due to take place in 1940 were awarded to Japan, and when Hitler heard that Tokyo planned to build a stadium that would outdo that of 1936, he became even more dismissive of the Berlin arena. He had something far more spectacular in mind. For the site he turned towards Nüremburg, and for the design he looked again to Speer. The architect was ordered to draw up blueprints for an Olympic stadium four times as great as that in Berlin, one that would hold more than 400,000 spectators.

Speer thought it ridiculous and protested that the International Olympic Committee would never approve of it. Hitler, however, brushed objections aside and declared that the Olympics of 1940 in Tokyo would be the last ever held outside Germany. Thereafter, he proclaimed, they will take place in Germany forever."

This stadium was to have been completed by 1944 and would have been a real monument to Hitler and his distorted vision of sport. The 1936 Berlin stadium, dreamed up by Diem and dismissed by Hitler, is a different story. It should be allowed to stand — not as a salute to the Nazis, but as a monument to the memory of Jesse Owens and his generation, who boldly took their spikes to the swastika.

JOHN BRYANT

TELEVISION CHOICE

Cuba through music

Beat Route
BBC2, 8.00pm (Scotland tomorrow, not Ireland)

Jools Holland drives through Havana in a 1950s Cadillac convertible and offers his gleanings from the guidebook. Cuba is "the sleeping alligator of the Caribbean" (whatever that means): 90 miles from Florida, 48 from Haiti and 86 from Jamaica. Jools forgets to tell us the population of the country, but suddenly remembers it later. Columbus, Castro, cigars and Hemingway also get a mention or three. But as this series has demonstrated, Holland should leave the tourist stuff to Jill Dando and concentrate on the music. He can hardly fail in Cuba, which has given us the rumba and the cha-cha-cha. This makes it all the stranger that the number with which Holland and a group of Cuban virtuosos round off the show should be *Something* by the definitely non-Cuban George Harrison.

Body Story
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The latest journey into the human body follows a woman through her pregnancy and up to the birth of the child. As with previous films, this is a dramatisation, not a documentary, and the couple in the film are played by actors. But what, you may wonder, of the birth itself, which is all too obviously not a piece of acting? The explanation is that the actress, Hilary Tones, was pregnant in real life and that Sam Parks, who plays her husband, is her actual partner. Confusing, perhaps, though it allows the makers of the film a greater flexibility in their storyline. Besides, the human story is less important than the medical. Essentially this is an illustrated lecture on the reproductive process, delivered with the help of the computer-generated animation which has been the feature of this series.

Dispatches
Channel 4, 9.00pm

An extended edition of *Dispatches* claims to expose for the first time the secret workings of the Animal Liberation Front as it fights to stop scientific research involving the use of animals. Infiltrating the highest ranks of the ALF, David Monaghan's film challenges public statements by the front that it does not condone terror or put human life at risk. On the contrary, the report argues, the front's attacks on laboratories and farms amount to a dangerous and illegal reign of terror. Among specific accusations are that the front uses fire-bombs, razor blades in envelopes and death threats as routine weapons. We hear from one of the ALF's most notable targets, Professor Colin Blakemore, while Professor Paul Wilkinson, an expert on terrorism, says that the ALF and its offshoots constitute the most serious domestic terrorist threat within the United Kingdom.



Body Story follows the progress of a pregnancy (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

Science at War: Russia's Nuclear Patriots
BBC2, 9.25pm

Although as it comes nearer to the present day there is some overlap with Jeremy Isaacs's *Cold War*, this continues to be a compelling series. The latest film charts the Soviet Union's nuclear bomb programme with first-hand accounts from key players. The dropping of the American atom bomb on Hiroshima, and worsening relations between the Soviet Union and its wartime allies, convinced Stalin that he had to enter the nuclear race. Working under tremendous political pressure and with primitive technology, Soviet scientists under the young Andrei Sakharov were able to defy Western predictions and produce a deliverable atom bomb within four years. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Messiaen Evening
Radio 3, 6.00pm

Six hours of Oliver Messiaen in words and music as part of Radio 3's ambitious (and generally superb) *Sounding the Century* project. This is just what a proper music network ought to be doing and the content surely suggests that reports of Radio 3's dumbing down are grossly exaggerated. There are three concerts: a piano recital by Peter Donohoe (6pm), a concert from the CBSO Centre in Birmingham given by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (7.30pm) and a live recital from Birmingham Oratory (10.45pm) by the organist Dame Gillian Weir. There is also a recollective programme on Messiaen the musician of joy (7.05pm) and two interval features (8.15 and 9.05) about aspects of the composer's work.

War Radio
Radio 4, 8.00pm

This is an important programme for those who care about the integrity of radio, for it demonstrates what happens when the medium loses all sense of its proper purpose. The story told here by Misha Glenny in one of the Radio 4 programmes marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is of radio stations prostituted to political and miltary power, with disastrous consequences for the people innocently tuning in. Perhaps the most chilling example used in the programme is Radio RTML in Rwanda, which pumped out disgraceful incitement to violence and undoubtedly contributed to the deaths of 800,000 people in the ethnic conflict three years ago. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mark Goodier 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 David Allan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Al Read Show (4/5) 9.30 Love 40: New Belle Please (2/5) 10.00 Girls and Guitars: Meredith Brooks 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Lynn Parsons 3.00am Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. Presented by Allan Robb 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive. Presented by Jane Garvey and Peter Allen 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 Time of My Life. The jockey Marcus Armytage recalls his triumph when he won the 1990 Grand National as an amateur 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops 9.30 Sportshop 10.00 Late Night Lives 1.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hain 7.30 Harriet Scott 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.00am Bill Overton & Sally Meen 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00 Anna Raeburn 4.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf PlayBack 7.30 Composer of the Month 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 Electronic Jukebox 9.00 News; (648 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Wood, Guts and Brass 9.30 Network 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Discovery 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Record News 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Early Versions 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: X-Press 3.00 News, (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Record News 4.30 Insight; (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Assignment; (648 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Mendian Books 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 John Peel 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Composer of the Month 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Focus on Faith 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 Assignment 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Mozart (Trumpet Concerto in D major); Haydn (Trumpet Concertino in C major) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Paganini (Violin Concerto No 1 in D); Brahms (String Sextet in B flat major); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Includes Tchaikovsky (Rococo Variations); Messiaen (O Sacrum Convivium)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance March No 3 in C minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: John Eliot Gardiner
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Playwrights — Victor Hugo with Peggy Reynolds
12.00 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Susan Sharpe introduces the third of five weekly concerts for the Christmas season
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andras Ligeti and Andrew Davis, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano, Joan Rodgers, soprano, Sarah Walker, mezzo, Thomas Randle, tenor, Stephen Richardson, bass, Prague Philharmonic Chorus
4.00 Ensemble (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty looks at the ondes martenot
6.00 Olivier Messiaen In His Century See Choice. The evening begins with a recital by the pianist Peter Donohoe, broadcast live from the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Composers include Messiaen, Murail, Takemitsu, Debussy, Albeniz, Stockhausen, Dukas and Scriabin.
7.05 Olivier Messiaen: The Man Behind the Music Friends and pupils of Olivier Messiaen paint a portrait of the composer and the man
7.30 Birmingham Contemporary Music Group Live from the CBSO Centre. Conductor George Benjamin, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano. Xenakis (Jalons); Boulez (Memoriale); Benjamin (At First Light) 8.15 The Making of Messiaen 8.35 Messiaen (La Rousserolle Effarvatte, Catalogue d'Oiseaux) 9.05 Messiaen's Mark 9.25 Concert, part two. Goehr (In memoriam Olivier Messiaen, BBC commission); Müller-Siemens (Light Blue, Almost White, BBC commission; first performance); Messiaen (Oiseaux Exotiques)
10.00 Messiaen In His Century Michael Berkeley, George Benjamin, Peter Hill and Bayan Northcott discuss the importance of Messiaen
10.45 French Organ Music A recital by Gillian Weir live from the Birmingham Oratory.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart (r)
1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod 1.00 Beethoven Symphony Series 2.25 Boccherini (Guitar Quintet No 2 in E, G448) 2.40 Haydn (Sonata in E minor, H XV 34) 5.00 Beethoven (Piano Sonata in G, Op 14 No 2) 5.20 Schumann (Symphony No 1 in B flat, Spring)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues with Anne Hill
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg
9.30 Shorelines The battle between conservationists and shellfish gatherers at Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland. Last in series (5/5)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Charles Dickens — Journalist
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Crossing Continents Meriel Beattie investigates how ordinary Sicilians are calling for a halt to the use of child labour
11.30 Split Ends Susie Maguire's comedy drama set in the world of hairdressing
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One Hosted by Nick Clarke
1.30 Hidden Treasures New series of the antiques quiz, with experts Hilary Kay, Paul Atterbury, Geoffrey Munn and Tim Wonnacott
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play — The Teahouse Detective: The Metropolitan Line Murder Baroness Orczy's drama set in the 1920s. Starring Bernard Hepton and Suzanne Burden (r)
3.00 Call You and Yours: 0171-580 4444 Peter White presents the consumer justice programme
3.30 Coffee — A Hellish Brew Mike Gonzalez explores coffee production (3/4) (r)
3.45 Snaps by David McAlpine Cunningham. A man considers where he stands in his family's photograph album
4.00 Law in Action Presented by Marcel Berlins
4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips investigates the nature of alcohol
5.00 PM with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Worriers New series Comedy about a business which takes the strain out of life by worrying on behalf of its clients. Starring Toby Longworth and Niall Ashdown (1/6)
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row Francine Stock asks why ice and snow have such a hold over the British imagination
7.45 Still Waters by Sergio Casci (r).
8.00 War Radio Misha Glenny marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with an investigation into how radio is used in modern warfare. See Choice
8.30 The Week in Westminster Steve Richards takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster
9.00 Ground Control Angela Lamont reports on the building of the new runway at Manchester Airport, which straddles a river and a major road (2/4)
9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg (r)
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spiderweb Stephanie Cole reads part four of Penelope Lively's tale
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Cradleys Topical comedy
11.15 MacLean: The Memorex Years Comedy, by John Langdon. Leslie Phillips stars (4/6)
11.30 (FM) New Radio Includes a documentary about the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival by Cathy Henderson and David Gregg (3/4)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News 12.30am (FM) The Late Book: Human Voices Stories and poems by women held in Burmese prisons
12.30 (LW) Test Match Special Australia v England. Commentary from the first day's play in the third Test, from the Adelaide Oval
12.48 (FM) Shipping 1.00 (FM) As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 44

ABITURIENT

(b) In Germany, a pupil who is leaving a "gymnasium" or high-school to enter a university.
An adaptation of the present participle of abiturire, the desiderative of abire to go away. "Examinations for which abiturient pupils may have to be prepared."

FURRINER

(c) A humorous or dialectal perversion of foreigner.
John Buchan, The Three Hostages, 1924: "The worst of them furriners is that you can't never be sure what they thinks of you."

BALLABILE

(b) A mass dance for the whole corps de ballet.
From the Italian ballare to dance.
"We shall consider the celebrate Maestro, first as a composer of Ballets, pas, ballabile and other choreographic matters. The word ballabile signifies a dance executed by a large number of persons: that is, the general corps of the Ballet. The term was introduced into France, and other countries, by Blasis."

FENG-SHUI

(c) In Chinese mythology, a system of spirit influences, good and evil, which inhabit the natural features of landscapes: hence, a kind of geomancy for dealing with those influences in determining sites for houses and graves.
In Chinese feng = wind + shui = water. "I climbed to the grave of my mother, which was fine for Feng Shui with its wind and water."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Nfg5! fxg5: 2. Nf6! Bxf6: 3. Be4 and mate follows.

SUTTER HOME
CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY
Perfect with crispy chicken wontons and red pepper coulis.

SUTTER HOME
CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY
When you're not grabbed by the coulis.

SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES.
They don't need food to make sense.

The bare-faced cheek of the youth of today

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

When, in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, someone complains about modern youth because "they have absolutely no respect for dyed hair", Oscar Wilde obviously didn't foresee a day when modern youth would include Duncan — who not only respects dyed hair, he even gets his mum to pop on a pair of Marigold gloves and rub dye into his own curls at the kitchen table.

Duncan, like many of the adolescents Lucy Blakstad rounded up for last night's episode of *Naked* (BBC2), seemed to believe he belonged to the first generation of teenagers who had done anything even slightly racy, like dye their hair or put a stud through their skin. This is the trouble with teenagers: they're not even old enough to remember punks. They probably think the most daring *thing* Oscar Wilde ever did in his life was smoke cigarettes in public. Adolescents through the centuries have always been the same. This ignorance of the world in general — and of the cruel cards that fate can deal you in particular — are what adolescence is all about: imagine, for example, being the 14-year-old Des O'Connor and not even twigging that one day you would actually grow up to be *Des O'Connor!*

As somebody once noticed, when you're 14 you just can't believe how ignorant and unworldly your parents are; and then when you're 21 you're amazed at how much they've learnt in the intervening seven years. When I was a teenager I could even have remembered who it was who said that, but occasional memory loss is a small price to pay for no longer being so young that you still think it's interesting to spend six hours a day on the telephone.

Duncan has several rings pierced through his body — not so many that you could hang brocade curtains from them, but enough to give an airport security scanner hiccoughs. They share body space with his tattoos. Duncan's plan is to record details of his life on his body, like a diary, so that when he dies it will become his own "little bible". Maybe it will say: "By their tattoos ye shall know them". Or maybe: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." This is what his mum is hoping, anyway.

Blakstad's idea to have these youths stare into the camera lens as though they were inspecting themselves in a mirror, seeking out spots to squeeze (yuck!), leaving lovebites on the glass, was clever but a little unforgiving. It is a curse of our camcorder age that teenagers are now never able to metamorphose discreetly into adults without there being a vault of VHS evidence to betray how they behaved when young.

Luckily for a film-maker making a series about how people think about their bodies, adolescents think about their body a lot. And some think a lot of their body. Cassell, 14, is not so keen on armpit hair but welcomes pubic hair as a signal of maturity: "It's like I'm a ripening fruit. I'm ready to pick." His mate Chike, also 14, has other concerns: "My muscles, *my face and my penis* are important... you never hear a girl saying, 'Oh, I want to marry a guy with a small penis'." Well, not unless she's planning to make a key-ring out of it, at any rate.

But just when you think you've got the measure of today's youth, along comes someone like Joella Holliday to mess up your calculations. Joella is the 10-year-old girl who, after an eight-year legal battle, has now finally persuaded the Registrar General to change her birth certificate so that she can be officially classed as a girl. Joella, wrongly and hastily labelled a boy as a baby due to a rare medical condition that left her neither male nor female but "intersex", was born without several internal body parts. She had an operation when she was 17 months old after surgeons advised Joella's mother that her "son" Joel would have a better quality of life as a girl. One in every 1,000 babies born in England and Wales is now born with intersex symptoms and scientists are investigating whether this is part of the same trend that has resulted in falling sperm counts and a rise in testicular cancer.

The legal headache was convincing officials that Joella's case had nothing to do with transexualism. Had QED (BBC1) not taken up her cause, the battle might still be ricocheting around the courts like a billiard ball. But what quickly became clear from watching this documentary is that Joella is not a girl in a boy's body, or a boy in a girl's body, but a remarkably mature and wise human being in a child's body.

Joella's surgeon — convinced that installing a catheter was the next operation she should undergo — had introduced her to another girl, Hannah, who already had one. The idea was to acclimatise Joella to the idea. After taking time to weigh up the pros and cons of yet another operation, Joella wrote to thank Hannah for taking the trouble to come and meet her, but added: "I've decided not to have the operation for lots of reasons, but most important because I'm happy as I am. My mum says nobody's perfect ... I just want people to like me even if I wear nappies. I don't want to change myself to make others happy, because I like being me. Thank you, Hannah. Love from Joella".

Many people five times her age have less insight into what is and isn't important in life. If she stays *this* smart beyond her years, adolescence is going to come as quite a shock to Joella.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (99749)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (58861)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (5526768)
9.40 Style Challenge (1275720)
10.05 City Hospital (T) (7058497)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4790768)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher (4873045)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (4876132)
11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1618381)
12.00pm Pass the Buck (9307942)
12.25 Going for a Song (9393749)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (73151671)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (55720)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (45538045)
1.40 Neighbours Phil plays the fool (T) (97537132)
2.05 Ironside An appeal to investigate a healer leaves the Chief suspecting foul play (r) (5006300)
2.55 Battersea Dogs' Home From Bellmead, near Windsor (4765478)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (9254749) **3.45** Fireman Sam (6598958) **3.55** Rugrats (3531497) **4.20** Mr Wymi (1541590) **4.35** Smart (9990229) **5.00** Newsround (2454107) **5.10** Aquila (8160923)
5.35 Neighbours Phil plays the fool (r) (T) (258190)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (497)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (749)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show, putting some of the biggest names on the high street under the spotlight (T) (8215)
7.30 EastEnders Grant loses Peggy and Phil's support (T) (861)
8.00 Animal Hospital The vets treat a neglected dog, Einstein, who was found homeless with a severe flea infestation. Presented by Rolf Harris (T) (9213)
8.30 2point4 Children Bill discovers Ben has agreed to take care of the Grimes family's house while they are on holiday and immediately recalls his past pet disasters (r) (T) (8720)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (190768)
9.35 dinnerladies The girls celebrate Japanese-style at their works "do", but Bren's Mum turns up and takes the Eastern spirit too far (T) (881132)
10.00 They Think It's All Over With Jo Brand (T) (69316)
10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk with Will Smith and Greg Proops (72836)
11.00 Question Time With David Dimbleby. Panellists include Ken Livingstone, MP; Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor; and columnist Ann Leslie (T) (783478)
12.05am A Woman Deceived (TVM 1992) FILM Courtroom drama following the trial of a divorcee accused of shooting her ex-husband and his new wife. Starring Meredith Baxter and Judith Ivey. Directed by Dick Lowry (T) (941275)
1.40 Weird Science A supercomputer falls for Lisa (T) (3873140)
2.00 Weather (5807614)
2.05 BBC News 24 (94309121)

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BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: *The Adventures of the Garden Fairies* (6334497) **7.05** Teletubbies (5335039) **7.30** Yogi's Treasure Hunt (8330519) **7.55** Blue Peter (1273213) **8.20** Funky Phantom (3496942) **8.40** Fiddley Foodle Bird (6753519) **8.55** Tales of the Tooth Fairies (8106836) **9.00** The Adventures of the Garden Fairies (4638497) **9.05** The Phil Silvers Show (7100565) **9.30** Great Romances of the 20th Century (18126) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (48942) **10.30** FILM: Great Expectations (89961749) **12.25pm** Urgent Action (6057836) **12.30** Working Lunch (12942) **1.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (21976590)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour Re-covering furniture (9588756)
2.10 Match of the Day Greats Sheffield Utd against Sunderland, 1978 (86359300)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (6252381)
2.45 Westminster with Diana Madill Parliamentary news (T) (2833652)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (8170132)
3.30 Gardeners' World An Irish classical garden (22/30) (r) (T) (855)
4.00 Change That (r) (T) (9270942)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (9353229)
4.55 Lowri (T) (7145855)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (126)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (243497)
6.45 Sliders Wade remembers her arrival in an idyllic but dying world (T) (559855)
7.30 First Sight Report on the safety of prescription medicines (T) (403)
8.00 CHOICE **Beat Route** Jools Holland continues his grand tour of the world with a visit to Havana (T) (7855)
8.30 Top Gear Steve Berry takes a nostalgic trip back to the 1970s (T) (2590)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Don tries to kiss Sally (T) (440403)



The spectacular and terrifying effect of a hydrogen bomb blast (9.25pm)

9.25 CHOICE **Science at War** How the Soviet Union managed to get one step ahead of the Americans in the 1950s with the development of the hydrogen bomb (T) (380774)
10.15 Wrappers The history of toothpaste packaging (T) (534861)
10.25 Urgent Action (r) (T) (710749)
10.28 Article 19 (T) (710749)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (433671)
11.15 Late Review *The Mask of Zorro* (207958)
11.55 Skiing Forecast (744294)
12.00 Despatch Box (72904)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: The Leisure Site: Personal Passions **12.45** Making the News **1.20** Euripides' Medea **1.50** Open Late **2.00** Belief Season **4.00** Teaching Film and Media: Screening Histories I **4.30** Screening Histories II: The Film-maker Strikes Back **5.00** Teacher Training: The Literacy Hour 3 **5.45** Open University: The Academy of Waste? **6.10** The Great Iron and Steam Rollercoaster **6.35** The Three Degrees

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (36768)
6.00 GMTV (1467229)
9.25 Trisha (T) (2018720)
10.15 This Morning (T) (589632)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (3760107)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (16768)
***1.00* Shortland Street** *Billy* does a disappearing act (53316)
1.30 Home and Away Sam goes from bad to worse (T) (15039)
2.00 Christmas Home in the Country Ideas for the festive season (6/9) (5401958)
2.40 Supermarket Sweep (T) (4850590)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (T) (8179403)
3.15 HTV News (T) (8178774)
3.20 CITV: Wizadora (8093039) **3.30** Kipper (3168300) **3.45** Paddington Bear (6410126) **3.55** Cow and Chicken (3535213) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (1199738) **4.40** The Worst Witch (1079045)
5.10 A Country Practice Darcy asks Father Sean for help (6043774)
5.36 HTV Crimestoppers (939126)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (893584)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (296923)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (580045)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (917519)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (395)
7.00 Emmerdale Chris persuades Kathy to seek help (T) (1861)
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out Mick Shore and his neighbours test out the newest boardgames (229)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (229)
8.00 The Bill A newborn baby goes missing from the local hospital (T) (1359)



Tony (Simon Chadwick) is called to an old school rival (9pm)

9.00 Picking Up the Pieces Ari accident with a syringe plunges Tony into jeopardy, and Barry gets hot under the collar (7/8) (T) (7565)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (81584)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (547923)
10.45 WEST: HTV 30 1978-1988 (r) (461403)
10.45 WALES: Celtic Radicals (T) (461403)
11.15 WEST: Renegade Reno meets the spitting image of Elvis during a pub brawl, and learns the gutter press has got wind of the story (152377)
11.15 WALES: Now We Are Four (T) (468316)
11.45 WALES: We Can Work It Out (467687)
12.10am Jenny Maggie and Jenny take up modelling (3822879)
12.40 Highlander (4477169)
1.35 ITV at V-98 New series filmed at this year's music festival (1/4) (8835527)
2.35 Cyber Cafe (r) (7080237)
3.00 CD UK (r) (55528)
4.00 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (4813237)
4.50 Soundtrax (84135184)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (3390879)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (6069671) **1.00 Echo Point** (53316) **1.30 Christmas Home in the Country** (6/9) (7309294) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (T) (86353126) **3.15-3.20 Central News** (T) (8178774) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (6048774) **6.25-6.55 Central News;** Weather (T) (204942) **6.55-7.00 Lifeline** (T) (320229) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (556671) **10.40-12.40 FILM: The Amityville Horror** (56188720) **1.35am Pirate TV** (6/7) (9891053) **2.00 ITV at the Reading Festival** (2415275) **2.55 Box Office America** (r) (7093701) **3.20 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (49850459) **3.45 Recollections** (r) (65527) **4.15 Central Jobfinder '98** (T) (2548546) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (2328879)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (3760107) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (6140590) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (53316) **1.30 Christmas Home in the Country** (6/9) (7309294) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (T) (86353126) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (8178774) **5.08 Birthday People** (8573294) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6043774) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (97687) **10.30-10.45 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (547923) **10.45 Personal Column** (2/2) *(461403)* ***11.15 Richard Digance: For One Night Only*** (5/5) (r) (162300) **12.15am-12.40 Campus Cops** (8441966)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (3760107) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away;** (T) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (565) **6.30-7.00 Rural Rides** (5/6) (395) **10.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (547923) **10.45-12.40 FILM: Judgement in Berlin** (61930010) **5.00am Freescreen** (T) (54904)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (6069671) **1.00-1.30 Split Second** (53316) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street; 6.25 Anglia News** (T) (204942) **6.55-7.00 What's On** (320229) **10.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (547923) **10.45 Cover Story** (461403) **11.15 First Take** (468316) **11.45-12.40 Anatomy of Disaster** (581942)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (43109316) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (46382855) **9.00 Home Movies** (4/5) (T) (26169382) **9.35 FILM: Father Was a Fullback** (84845749) **11.05** ***Little Women in Transit*** (27911584) **11.15 Lemming Aid** (T) (40183126) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (49152687) **12.00pm Judge Joe Brown** (T) (46741316) **12.30 Sesame Street** (63260923) **1.00 Planed Plant** (46385942) **1.00 Migmas** (T) (66114213) **1.15 Pingu** (r) (66119768) **1.30 Sunny Spells** (86029519) **1.40 FILM: Forbidden Planet** (T) *(45812403)* ***3.30 Collectors' Lot*** (T) (11537039) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (11612774) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (11618958) **5.00 Planed Plant;** Uned 5 (16134294) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (11529010) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (19293774) **6.10 Heno** (T) (80930229) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (33687403) **7.25 Penblwydd Hapus;** (T) Newyddion (56940355) **8.00 Meibion Glandwr** (T) *(16130478)* ***8.30*** **Newyddion** (T) (16142213) **9.00 Body Story** (4/6) (T) (49068294) **9.30 Friends** (T) (51208869) **10.00 Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star** (5/6) (T) (17771039) **10.45 Bob and Margaret** (T) (71174132) **11.15 Whose Line Is It Anyway?** (5/11) (T) (71171045) **11.45 Rising Damp** (T) (71170316) **12.15am Dispatches** (T) (40564546) **1.15 Comedy Lab** (79786701) **1.45 Joe Public** (3/5) (T) (79785072) **2.15 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (9308497)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (78671)
9.00 Home Movies (4/5) (r) (9728652)
9.35 Father Was a Fullback (1949) FILM Comedy, with Fred MacMurray. Directed by John M Stahl (9318126)
11.05 Little Women in Transit Short film about three sisters arguing over Louisa May Alcott's famous book (1505749)
11.15 Lemming Aid (3707687)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (3687)
12.00pm Sesame Street (88497)
12.30 I Dream of Jeannie (T) (80710)
1.00 Judge Joe Brown Two housemates sue a former tenant (51958)
1.30 Roots to Success The Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows (97531958)
1.55 Cairo Road (1950) FILM Two British Government operatives are sent to Egypt to smash a drug-smuggling outfit. Drama, starring Eric Portman and Laurence Harvey. Directed by David Macdonald (T) (87283774)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Frazer Hines's hat collection (T) (923)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (958)
4.30 Countdown (T) (9811768)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (7130923)
5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (294)
6.00 Roseanne *The business needs a loan,* so Roseanne and Jackie visit their bank manager (r) (T) (107)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (687)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (807519)
7.55 Artranspennine Photographs by Peter Mitchell (T) (360132)
8.00 Italian Kitchen Two (4/6) (T) (2923)
8.30 CHOICE **Body Story** The different stages of pregnancy in the human body (5/6) (T) (4958)
9.00 CHOICE **Dispatches** Undercover report exposing evidence of a dangerous and highly secretive campaign of terror organised by the Animal Liberation Front (T) (5107)

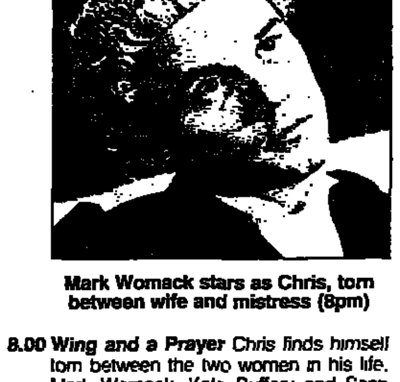


Alan Alda stars as a US President who declares war on Canada (10pm)

10.00 Canadian Bacon (1994) FILM A hapless US *President declares war on Canada in the* hope of regaining popularity with voters. With John Candy and Alan Alda. Michael Moore directs (T) (150279)
11.40 4 Later Introduction: Oz (307107)
12.50am Vids Offbeat video review (2/12) (5993324)
1.25 Late Toon: Pariah the Red Man Film based on the myth of Greek King Sisyphus (2298782)
1.35 For the Love of Faith (7/8) (8707140)
2.40 The Blue Eyes of Yonta (1991) FILM Romantic drama set against the backdrop of Africa's struggle for independence. Flora Gomes directs (150546)
4.20 Nothing But the Truth *Royal* confidentiality (r) (T) (4824343)
5.10 Right to Reply (r) (T) (7380091)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headline round-up (6454300)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (6385687)
7.30 Milkshake! (2924687)
7.35 Wimzie's House; (r) 5 News Update (6589590)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (7827942)
8.30 Dappledown Farm; 5 News Update *(7826213)*
9.00 The Antiques Hunter (r) (T) (3450652)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4385010)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8558039)
10.20 Sunset Beach Ben and Meg tie the knot (T) (1499251)
11.10 Leeza *(r) (8793671)*
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (7900229)
12.30 Family Affairs Angus suspects foul play; (r) (T) 5 News Update (2458039)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jasmin worries about Dylan (T) (6384958)
1.30 Sons and Daughters Martin's plans meet with disapproval; 5 News Update (2440010)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1894590)
2.30 Good Afternoon (2495565)
3.30 The Ride to Hangman's Tree (1967) FILM Three outlaws attempt to stay on the straight and narrow, but the temptation of crime is too much to resist. Directed by Alan Rafkin (T) (4896403)
5.10 The Roseanne Show (4836887)
6.00 100 Per Cent (2736229)
6.30 Family Affairs The Harts grieve for Elsa (T) (2647381)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (1709478)
7.30 Watery World The Amazon river system, notable for its abundance of cardinal tetra fish: (T) 5 News Update (2643565)



Mark Womack stars as Chris, torn between wife and mistress (8pm)

8.00 Wing and a Prayer Chris finds himself torn between the two women in his life. Mark Womack, Kate Buffery and Sean Arnold star (5/6) (r) (T) 5 News Update (6897213)
9.00 Desperado: Return of the Desperado (TVM 1988) FILM The wandering cowboy arrives in a town being terrorised by an *evil tyrant and sets out to rid the grateful* residents of the menace. Adventure, starring Alex McArthur and Robert Foxworth. Directed by E.W. Swackhamer; (T) 5 News Update (38954749)
10.50 Sex and Shopping Profile of German porn star Kelly Trump, who earns a lucrative living out of a fast-expanding industry where laws are less stringent than in Britain (7/13) (3936652)
11.20 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and music (2715045)
12.00 Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (63459527)
4.40am Prisoner: Cell Block H Belinda *prepares a nasty surprise for Sonia, and* Colleen stands up to Joan (4812481)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7459850)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

7.00am The Simpsons (78949) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (17132) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (10923) **9.00** Guilty! (60749) **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (77710) **11.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (97774) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (8862565) **12.55** The Special K Collection (53976300) **1.00** The Days of Our Lives (9016774) **1.55** The Special K Collection (77388687) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (6762381) **2.55** The Special K Collection (2778838) **3.00** Jenny Jones (7719958) **3.55** The Special K Collection (8209584) **4.00** Guilty! (55107) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6768) **6.00** Married ... With Children (4229) **6.30** Dream Team ([illegible]) **7.00** The Simpsons ([illegible]) **7.30** Real TV (1565) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (90451) **8.30** World's Weirdest TV (5652) **9.00** Friends (57519) **9.30** Friends (58768) **10.00** ER (80381) **11.00** Dream Team (56836) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (92584) **12.30am** Renegade (61879) **1.30** Long Play (4806695)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Alien Resurrection (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **The Peacemaker (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Contact (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Cop Land (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm A Bout de Souffle (1959) (2366590) **8.00 The Shawshank Redemption (1994)** (73060818) **10.20 The Farm: Angola, USA (1998)** (7527010) **12.00am Reservoir Dogs (1991)** (1453782) **1.35 City on Fire (1987)** (3525121) **3.20 Simple Men (1992)** (36101362) **5.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Martin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995) (48749) **8.00 Hello Again (1987)** (70565) **10.00 We the Jury (1997)** (36590) **12.00pm Merlin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995)** (88316) **2.00 The Elf Who Didn't Believe (1997)** (75403) **4.00 Hello Again (1987)** (2942) **6.00 We the Jury (1997)** (76768) **8.00 Marvin's Room (1996)** (43784855) **9.45** The Barry Norman Interview (929497) **10.15 Ransom (1996)** (32589836) **12.20am Money Train (1995)** (108140) **2.10 Defenseless (1991)** (250850) **3.55 The Last Supper (1996)** (85908879)

SKY MOVIEMAX

6.00am Murder, She Wrote: South By Southwest (1997) (79378381) **7.45 Coyote Summer (1996)** (10835294) **9.30 Jack (1996)** (12497) **11.30 Race Against the Harvest (1987)** (77836) **1.00pm Little Bigfoot (1995)** (68403) **3.00 Coyote Summer (1996)** (98300) **5.00 Murder, She Wrote: South By Southwest (1997)** (21923) **6.30 Jack (1996)** (30478) **9.00 My Fellow Americans (1996)** (95213) **11.00 Solo (1996)** (564128) **12.35am Blonde Heaven (1994)** (9303527) **2.00 Donor Unknown (1995)** (189169) **3.35 Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan (1989)** (21219343)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Three Coins in the Fountain (1954) (7807887) **6.00 My Favourite Wife (1940)** (9140749) **8.00 The Dark Mirror (1946)** *(2548720)* ***9.30*** *Hollywood Hall of Fame:* Gary Cooper (1159580) **10.00 Unconquered (1947)** (6747132) **12.30am American Gigolo (1980)** (2830904) **2.30 You'll Find Out (1940)** (7355814) **4.10 Abandon Ship (1957)** (1923430)

TNT

9.00pm Miracle in the Wilderness (1991) (6557126) **11.00 Mutiny on the Bounty (1935)** (36084671) **1.30am Arturo's Island (1963)** (77628492) **3.15 Miracle in the Wilderness (1991)** (89872850) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** World Pool Masters **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News ***9.00*** *Aerobics* ***9.30*** *Ringside* ***11.00*** World Pool Masters **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** Basketball **2.30** Moto-Plus **3.00** Ringside Boxing **4.30** World Pool Masters **5.30** Moto-Plus **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Football League Review **7.00** What a Weekend **7.30** Futbol Mundial **8.00** Live Golf: Presidents Cup

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Unbelievable Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Live International Cricket **4.00pm** Unbelievable Sports **4.30** Survival of the Fittest **5.00** Football League Review **5.30** Futbol Mundial **6.00** What A Weekend **6.30** The Rugby Club **7.30** Live Ice Hockey **10.00** Moto-Plus **10.30** International Cricket **12.00am** Live International Cricket

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Watersports World **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Olympics: Golden Moments **2.30** Sky Sports Classics Gold: Golf **3.30** World Powerboat Championships **4.00** V-Max **4.30** Basketball **6.30** Survival of the Fittest **7.00** Fishing: Tight Lines **8.00** Spanish Football **10.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing **8.00** Ski-Jumping **9.30** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **11.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **11.30** Snowboarding **12.00pm** Motors **1.00** Live Snooker **4.00** Rugby Union **5.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **6.00** Live Snooker **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Football **11.00** Motors **12.00am** Snowboarding **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Angels **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Due South **7.00** May to December **7.40** *It Ain't Half Hot, Mum* **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Fawlty Towers **9.40 FILM: Escape from New York (1981)** **11.35** The Bill **12.05am** The Bill **12.35** Spender **1.35** Boon **2.55** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** That's My Boy **8.30** No Honestly **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Piglet Files **1.30** Watching **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** *Mission: Impossible* **8.00** The Professionals **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Sez Les **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Cruella De Vil and her cronies come up with more dastardly plans to catch the *101 Dalmatians* (Disney Channel, 4.10pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** *101 Dalmatians* **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.07** Animal Shelf **9.17** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.12** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.07** Animal Shelf **12.17** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.12** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa **3.45** Aladdin **4.10** 101 Dalmatians **4.40** Art Attack **5.00** Smart Guy ***5.30*** *Microsoap* **5.45** Recess **6.00** The Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Pepper Ann **7.15** Brotherly Love **7.45** Microsoap **8.00 FILM: Running Wild (1998)** **9.30** Microsoap **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **9.00** Masked Rider **9.30** The Incredible Hulk **10.00** Iron Man **10.30** X-Men **11.00** Spiderman **11.30** Life with Louie **12.00pm** Ace Ventura **12.30** Casper **12.45** Toonsylvania **1.00** Sam and Max **1.15** Home to Rent **1.30** The Incredible Hulk **2.00** Iron Man **2.30** X-Men **3.00** Spiderman **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **5.00** Goosebumps **6.30** Eerie, Indiana. The Other Dimension **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Mowgli. The New Adventures of Jungle Book **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Fraggle Rock **6.30** Muppet Babies *7.00 Hey Arnold! 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Doug* **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Ivor the Engine/Magic Mountain/Captain Pugwash/Oscar's Orchestra **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Rocky and the Dodos/Bagpuss/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Angry Beavers **4.00** Catdog **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am California Dreams **7.30** Hang Time **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** USA High **9.00** Heartbreak High **10.00** Sweat **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** In the House **12.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00** Heartbreak High **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Sweat **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** USA High **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved By the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Bangs **6.45** Rush **7.00** USA High **7.30** Ready or Not

BRAVO

8.00pm The Extremists **8.30** Bushido **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sexy Sci-fi Drama **11.00 FILM: Hardcore (1977)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Scary Sexy Sci-fi Drama **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **3.05 FILM: Sci-Fighters (1996)** **5.00** Freaky Stories **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmond's **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** Just Shoot Me **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Festival of Fun! **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Hooperman **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** *The Twilight Zone* ***1.00*** *Tales of the* Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Flash **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** Amazing Stories **4.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Space Rangers **9.00** Sci-Fi Channel's Guide to the Galaxy **10.00 FILM: Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure (1988)** **11.45** Sci-Fi Channel Special **12.00am** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **1.00 FILM: Panga (1991)** **2.40** Sci-Fi Channel Special **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am The Joy of Painting **6.30** The Great Gardening Plot **7.00** Garden Club **7.30** Our House **8.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **8.30** Doorstep DIY **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** *The Great Gardening Plot* ***10.00*** *Garden* Club **10.30** Our House **11.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **11.30** Doorstep DIY **12.00pm** Home Again With Bob Vila **12.30** The House **1.00** A Cook on the Wild Side **1.30** In the Workshop **2.00** Our House Down Under **2.30** Gimme Shelter **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** This Old House with Steve and Norm

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing World **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Flight Deck **5.30** Jurassica **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Orang-Utans: High Society **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Science Frontiers: Operations in Orbit **9.00** Wheels and Keels: The Liners **10.00** Empire of the East **11.00** Forensic Detectives **12.00am** Animal Hospital **1.00** Flight Deck **1.30** Ancient Warriors **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Profiles of Nature **1.00** Animal Doctor **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** Wildlife SOS **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Zoo Story **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Wildlife SOS **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild ***6.00*** *Kratt's Creatures* ***6.30*** *Lassie* **7.00** Animal Planet Classics: Lilliput in Antarctica **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Wild Sanctuaries **9.00** The Blue Wilderness **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Wildlife Rescue **10.30** Untamed Africa **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Nature's Nightmares: Rat Wars **7.30** Nature's Nightmares: Piranha! **8.00** Giants of Jasper **8.30** Stock Car Fever **9.00** Extreme Earth: Flood! **10.00** Extreme Earth: Mountains of Fire **11.00** Extreme Earth: Cyclone! **12.00am** Born of Fire

HISTORY

4.00pm Destiny of Empires: The Spanish American War of 1898 **5.00** Moonshot: Bridge to the Moon **6.00** Ancient Mysteries **7.00** Biography: Rasputin

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Who's Cooking Dinner? **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** For Better, For Worse **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Antony's Morocco **2.00** Jenny Bristow's Country Cooking **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Frances Bissell's Westcountry Christmas **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** From the Ground Up **4.30** Caribbean Light **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** The Roseanne Show **9.50** The Jerry Springer Show **10.40** Michael Cole **11.30** Brookside **12.00pm** Special Babies **12.30** Rescue 911 **1.00** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Rolonda **2.55** Living It Up! **3.55** The Roseanne Show **4.45** Tempest! **5.35** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.10** The Jerry Springer Show **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **8.00** Ally McBeal **9.00 FILM: Family Rescue (1995)** **11.00** The Spicy Sex Files **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Janam Daata **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Chehre **6.30** Beegi ke Pg **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** News **8.00** Faraban Duniya **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Zanjeeren **10.00** Aanabi Raastey **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Farampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Dulaara** **3.00** Amar Kathayen **3.30** Entertainment Express **4.00** Campus **4.30** Fairdeal Antakshari **5.30** Daraar **6.00** All Time Hits **6.30** Making of Mausam **7.00** Dam Dama Dam **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **9.00** Hasratein **10.00** Gudgudee **10.30** Anhonee **11.00** Andaz **11.30** The Big Debate **12.00am** News **12.30** Zee Business Show **1.00** Baat Ban Jaye **1.30** Raahat **2.00 FILM: Urdu Movie: Parwana** **4.30** Lolly-Pop

the children's father, was too upset to talk after the hearing. | and shook the fence every time they tried to hammer a stake | jury ruled that she had been assaulted by Mr Rush.

OFFER WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY FROM LARGER WHSMITH HIGH STREET STORES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF ... EPTED.



SWIMMING 45
Davies leads quest for the return of British gold

SPORT

CRICKET 47
Turning pitch may force Stewart to gamble on batsmen



Waugh and Warne under fire

Salim to sue over bribery accusations

By John Goodbody

SALIM MALIK yesterday said that he would take legal action against Mark Waugh and Shane Warne, the shamed Australia cricketers who have accused the former Pakistan captain of trying to bribe them.

Officials and players across the world yesterday condemned Waugh and Warne, who admitted on Tuesday that they accepted money from an Indian bookmaker in 1995.

A Pakistani judge, who will give his report to his government on the original bribery claims by the Australians next week, said that the statements by Waugh and Warne "changed the scenario" completely and had affected the players' credibility.

Waugh testified at the government-ordered inquiry in October that Malik had offered him a bribe during Australia's 1994-95 tour of Pakistan. Warne made similar allegations about Malik.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) disclosed on Tuesday that the two players were fined, secretly, in 1995 for taking money in return for providing pitch and weather conditions to a bookmaker during the tour of Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Malik, called into the Pakistan team yesterday for the second Test against Zimbabwe which starts today, said: "This clearly shows that I was a victim of a conspiracy hatched by the Australians. I was in prime form at that stage (in 1994-95) when their allegations halted my career."

Malik has always denied the allegations, although he was suspended for seven months in 1995 while a retired judge examined the same accusations in an internal inquiry for the Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB). He was cleared of all charges but the case was reopened this year because of public and media pressure.

Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum, who is conducting the investigation, said: "The confessions of Mark Waugh and Shane Warne have definitely given a new colour to the story. Their acceptance confirms that they were involved in unethical practices, which makes their credibility doubtful. However, that does not mean that whatever Mark



Warne: confession

Waugh has said in his testimony in October is inaccurate. It is difficult to say at this stage what I will write in the report, but the scenario has changed completely."

Khalid Mahmood, the PCB chairman, said he was furious with the ACB for not disclosing the information until this week. Saying that the two Australians had "not come to the court with clean hands", he added: "It is unethical for a cricketer even to have links with a bookmaker."

The International Cricket Council (ICC) quickly distanced itself from the row, although it had been aware of the fines on Waugh and Warne for more than three years. David Richards, its chief executive, said: "It has always been a basic principle that each country is responsible for the discipline of its own players. The ACB made it clear they would like us to treat the matter as totally confidential and we have respected that confidentiality over the intervening time."

The world governing body will consider next month whether to pass new rules allowing the ICC to impose its own bans for serious offences.

The incident has caused turmoil in Australia. John Howard, the Prime Minister, said: "Australians love their cricket and anything that looks as though it is knocking cricket off its pedestal is something that is going to disturb Australians. These things are probably best dealt with more openly and more candidly."

After watching a press conference given by the players and Malcolm Speed, the ACB chief executive, Howard said that it was clear, in hindsight, that if the news had been publicised in 1995, "everything would have been seen in a much better perspective."

An Australian bookmaker said that he could not understand why Waugh and Warne would be paid for such information. Gerard Daffy, the CentreBet manager in Sydney, said: "The bookie could have rung his local weather bureau for 80 cents (about 60p) and got the same information."

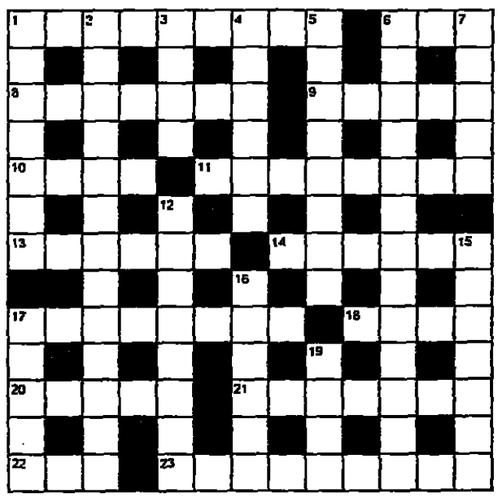
Geoff Boycott, the former England opening batsman, said it was "common knowledge" that certain players in Asia gave bookmakers pitch and weather information on their mobile phones before Test matches. He said: "Bookies can alter the odds from the information. It does them a favour, but it doesn't really alter what is going to happen in the game, but it doesn't sound right. It leaves a nasty taste.

Disgraced players, page 46
Stewart delays, page 47



Mike Tyson looks attentive during a news conference to announce what the promoter, Dan Goossen, called the worst-kept secret in boxing — that Tyson will face Francois Botha, of South Africa, on January 16. The 12-round bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas will be Tyson's first since June 28, 1997, when he bit Evander Holyfield's ears in their heavyweight championship bout and was disqualified in the third round. The Nevada Athletic Commission stripped Tyson of his boxing licence and fined him $3 million, but reinstated Tyson's licence in October. Appearing more relaxed and glib than usual, Tyson responded to questions — sometimes with flippant, sarcastic answers, other times with more thoughtful responses. "I'm not much for talking," he said in a one-minute presentation before questions began. "You guys know what I do. I know no one believes that he [Botha] is going to beat me." Asked about a possible future opponent, Tyson replied: "If the price is right, I'll fight a lion." He also said: "I'm not here because I've been voted the nicest guy in the world. I'm just here to give good fights, be a good boy." Tyson has a 45-3 record with 39 knockouts, while Botha, aged 30, is 39-1 with 24 knockouts. Botha's only loss came on November 9, 1996 when he was stopped by Michael Moorer in the ninth round for the IBF heavyweight title. Photograph: Nick Ut

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1585

ACROSS
1 Wallow deliciously (9)
6 Tree juice (3)
8 Wrestle (with) (7)
9 Argue (case); beg (5)
10 Capital of Azerbaijan (4)
11 Humiliation (8)
13 Complete (6)
14 Very clever person (6)
17 Passed, slowing too late (8)
18 Dried watercourse (4)
20 Winged-seed tree, edible 6 *ac* (5)
21 Wild joy (7)
22 Rodent, smelled by the suspicious (3)
23 Very cheap, common (3,1,5)

DOWN
1 Able to be *made out* (7)
2 Location of treasure on map (1,5,3,4)
3 Ready to eat (4)
4 (Anchor) hoisted (6)
5 Adventurous traveller (8)
6 Detailed plan, requirement (13)
7 Rice field (5)
12 Outlook (8)
15 Thicket (7)
16 Spanish dance: short jacket (6)
17 The sea-ear, an abalone (5)
19 A fish: complain (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1584
ACROSS: 7 Craze 8 Shadowy 9 Tedious 10 Girth 11 Hump 12 Bewilder 15 Sacristy 16 Snub 19 Civet 21 Bracken 22 Rissole 23 Stove
DOWN: 1 Scotch 2 Pandemic 3 Venom 4 Bargain 5 Dour 6 Cypher 8 Susceptible 13 Don't-know 14 Diction 15 Secure 17 Bunker 18 Faust 20 Vast

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Liverpool now past masters

British reputations are no longer feared in Europe, says **Alyson Rudd**

THE Celta Vigo coach could hardly believe his eyes, but perhaps he was just being polite. "To win with such style and authority," he gasped. Liverpool are regarded with awe in Spain. But not the Liverpool that Vigo overcame on Tuesday evening to secure a place in the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup.

Vigo cannot match Liverpool's pedigree: a Spanish club had never previously won at Anfield and Liverpool had lost only four times at home in the Uefa Cup. The competition the English side won in 1973 and 1976 had seen them either win or draw 51 out of 67 matches. But a reputation does not score or tackle; it hinders. And it is a little unfair so to lament Liverpool's performance, for Vigo also outplayed Aston Villa in the previous round.

The problem is that it was such a significant game. As Rangers had fallen to Parma earlier that day, Liverpool were flying the flag for Britain in the Uefa Cup. And because the quarter-finals will not be held until March, success would have given Gerard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, welcome breathing space as he rebuilds the club.

His immediate assessment



Houllier: must buy players

is difficult to swallow. He insisted that "they've got good players in every position". This was not a reference to the fact that Ince, McManaman, Redknapp and Heggem were suspended against Vigo, as Houllier also admitted that a full-strength squad would have fallen victim. Rather, Liverpool are making do and have to sign players of exceptional quality quickly.

Houllier also admitted that "they outplayed us, mainly on the skill levels". Somewhere along the way English clubs have lost the intimidating style that brushed aside the flair that has always existed on the Continent and, by attempting to match the high quality of Italian and Spanish teams, have come unstuck.

Against Vigo, Liverpool offered commitment, passion and unrelenting movement, but undermined their effectiveness by also trying to pass their way through midfield. Vigo were just too clever and read it all too easily.

Significantly Liverpool failed to tire out Vigo. It has been said before but, as long as English clubs fail to take heed, it has to be said again: the best foreign sides are so much fitter. They absorb the rigours of the English game and counter with intelligence. Vigo grew more incisive, not less.

While Mazinho, for Vigo, and Staunton, for Liverpool, worked tirelessly to ensure that their defence assisted the midfield players and vice versa, Staunton was overwhelmed by the responsibility.

Finally, Houllier said: "There is nothing to add except that the young Steven Gerrard is learning his trade well." But the talent that is emerging at Anfield has to be able to join a team that is running smoothly, not to be expected to save it from itself.

No substitute for awareness

By Kevin McCarra

GAMES can be lost not only with the intemperate use of the boot or the misplacement of a hand, but also by the turn of a coach's mind. Sergio Porrini and Lorenzo Amoruso were justly lambasted for Rangers' 3-1 defeat in Parma on Tuesday that saw the Ibrox club knocked out of the Uefa Cup on a 4-2 aggregate. The misjudgment of Dick Advocaat, the manager, may, however, have been even more significant.

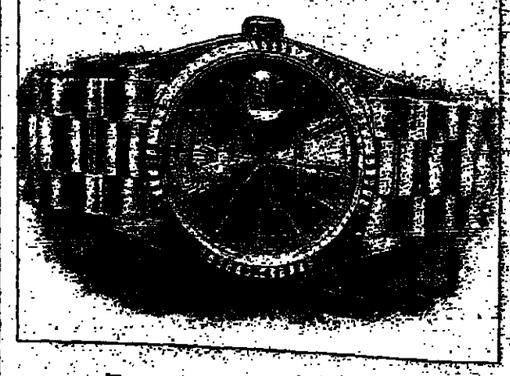
With Rangers leading 1-0, Porrini, the right back, was sent off after committing two bookable offences on Juan Veron. When Parma recovered to move 2-1 ahead in the game, and 3-2 in front on aggregate, Amoruso wiped away all hope with the sweep of an arm as he handled needlessly to present Alberto Malesani's team with the penalty that Enrico Chiesa converted.

The destructive quirks of personality were as apparent in the actions of Advocaat. Though Rangers had been reduced to ten men, he made no substitutions at the interval. Instead, Barry Ferguson, a midfield player, was pushed back into pardonably inadequate service as a right back. Parma, sophisticated members of Serie A, knew exactly how to probe.

Veron, in the 48th minute, crossed deep to the far-post area where a full back is usually stationed. There was a lack of cover and Colin Hendry, trying to recover the situation, could not prevent Chiesa from setting up Abel Balbo's equaliser. In that moment, the tone of the match was altered and Rangers, for the first time, were downcast. When Advocaat did bring on Tony Vidmar to play at right back, it was too late. The Rangers manager had wilfully refused to learn from experience. Last month, when his side were drubbed 5-1 by Celtic, a defender, Scott Wilson, had also been sent off and then, too, Advocaat declined to employ substitutes to effect the reorganisation required urgently. The leading figures in Dutch football are famed for their intransigence and Advocaat stands in the midst of that tradition.

The inflexibility harmed Rangers in Parma, but there are, of course, respects in which his strength of will has been of value. For the most part, his team are organised and, having already removed Bayer Leverkusen from the Uefa Cup, enjoyed spells when it seemed that they would also overcome Parma, the favourites for the tournament.

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